

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 19, 1999, my plane from Hartford to Washington was delayed and I unavoidably missed rollcall votes numbered 308, 309, and 310. Had I been present in the House Chamber, I would have voted "aye" on all three of these votes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIGARS ARE NO SAFE ALTERNATIVE ACT OF 1999

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Cigars Are No Safe Alternative Act of 1999, legislation which is similar to a bill I introduced during the 105th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for the report it is releasing today which reveals dramatic increases in sales, advertising, marketing and promotion of cigars in 1996 and 1997. The FTC Report confirms my worst suspicions that despite serious and deadly health risks, cigar use is up dramatically in the United States over the last five years. Cigar consumption has skyrocketed by 57% from 1993 to 1998. Advertising and marketing budgets grew by 32% over the two years studied—and every expenditure category saw a substantial increase—newspaper advertising grew by a whopping 254%. This comes on top of the February 1999 report by the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services that, "cigars are an emerging public health risk."

It can not be put more plainly: Cigars are not a safe alternative to cigarettes and it's time to clear the smoky haze regarding this deadly product. The legislation I am introducing today, the Cigars Are No Safe Alternative Act of 1999, will prohibit the sale and distribution of cigars to any individual who is under the age of 18. It will impose restrictions on the sale and advertising of cigars directed at youth, and eliminate cigar advertising on electronic media. It will encourage cigar manufacturers to end the practice of paying for, or participating in cigar product placements in movies and on television where a substantial segment of the viewing audience is under the age of 18 by requiring them to report on each such payment as it occurs. And it will direct the FTC to require warning labels on cigars to warn cigar users about the health risks presented by cigars.

The CANSA Act will also require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to

conduct a study on the health effects of occasional cigar smoking, nicotine dependence among cigar smokers, biological uptake of carcinogenic constituents of cigars, and environmental cigar smoke exposure. It will further require the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to report to Congress on the sales, marketing, and advertising practices associated with cigars—essentially updates to the report the FTC released today. And finally, the Secretary of HHS, acting in cooperation with the FDA, the FTC, and the Department of Treasury, will be required to monitor trends in youth access to, and use of, cigars and notify Congress of the results.

Cigar regulations are the orphan of our government's tobacco control policy. And the trends on sales and marketing are getting worse, not better. The dangers associated with cigars must be exposed just as intensely as those associated with cigarettes and smokeless tobacco. Cigars should not be glamorized, they should be recognized as deadly health threats.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly concerned that among adolescents, cigars are being perceived as more glamorous and less dangerous than cigarettes. A 1997 CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey revealed that over 30 percent of high school boys and over 10 percent of high school girls had smoked a cigar in the month before the survey was done. Those numbers are very troubling, and I am hopeful that the legislation I am filing today will drive home the point that cigars are not a safe alternative to cigarettes, period.

Cigars emit greater amounts of tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide, and substantially higher amounts of ammonia and a number of other cancer causing agents than cigarettes emit.

Congress must apply the same standard to cigars as it does to cigarettes with respect to youth access and marketing and advertising restrictions, and ensure that teenagers are not seduced by the cigar industry's slick and sophisticated marketing strategy—through magazines like "Cigar Aficionado" and others.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Cigars Are No Safe Alternative Act of 1999.

TRIBUTE TO DR. INGE GENEFEKE AND THE INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNCIL FOR TORTURE VICTIMS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a pleasure for me to call to the attention of my colleagues the work of an extraordinary woman, Dr. Inge Genefke, and the institution which she established, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims. Dr. Genefke, a Danish physician, is an outstanding humanitarian and a distinguished

medical doctor who uses her training and compassion to bring healing to those who have endured the pain of torture and abuse inflicted by repressive governments with whose policies or ideologies these unfortunate victims have questioned.

Today, at the end of the 20th century, some experts say that one-third of the 185 member states of the United Nations still practice torture or tolerate its use, and torture has been a dark side of human history for centuries.

The clinic which Dr. Genefke established in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1979 was the first of its kind anywhere in the world which was devoted specifically to treating such victims of torture. Dr. Genefke's unique mission—fighting for the forgotten victims and survivors of torture around the world—makes her one of the great heroines of humanity.

Mr. Speaker, Reader's Digest published an excellent article in March 1999 on Dr. Genefke and her humanitarian work. I urge my colleagues to read this article and to join me in paying tribute to this courageous and compassionate woman.

[From Reader's Digest, Mar. 1999]

SHE HEALS TORTURED SOULS

THANKS TO THE DEDICATED WORK OF DR. INGE GENEFEKE, THE LIVES OF TENS OF THOUSANDS HAVE BEEN SALVAGED

(By Lawrence Elliott)

Miguel Lee, desperate to find release from his inner agonies, came one day to a clinic at the University Hospital in Copenhagen, Denmark. But when he saw the white coats of the hospital staff he began to tremble.

"What's the matter," Dr. Inge Genefke asked him. He couldn't tell her. It was too black a memory.

But Miguel was able to speak of the anxiety that raged in his stomach, the headaches that felt like spikes being driven into his skull, the nightmares that jolted him into shrieking wakefulness and terrified his family.

Dr. Genefke listened carefully. Miguel sensed her concern; he trusted her. And finally he told her of the echoing torture chamber, night after night, when they wired his head to an instrument and sent excruciating electric shocks surging through his ears.

Dr. Genefke asked him about the white coats. "The doctors wore white coats," he said. "And there was always a doctor in the torture room to make sure you didn't die. Dying was too good for us."

Once he had been a respected union leader and the head of a loving family. Now, after three years of imprisonment and torture by the junta that seized power in Chile in 1973 and three years of exile to Denmark, Lee is broken in mind and body.

Doctors assure him they understand how terrible the torture must have been. But they remind him that it is over. It is time to get on with his life.

It is what everyone tells him. He couldn't make anyone understand that the torture doesn't end when they stop beating you—until now.

"But the pain wasn't the worst, was it?" Dr. Genefke asked him. "Wasn't it worse that they made you feel guilty and ashamed? And don't you still feel that way?"

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Miguel's eyes welled with tears.

Dr. Genefke explained to Miguel that they had tortured him to break his spirit, to destroy his faith in himself, to make sure that he would never again have the courage to speak out against them. "We can help you here," she went on. "But you have to believe in one thing: nothing that happened to you in prison was your fault. Nothing! It was all their fault."

Miguel nodded mutely. He had finally found someone who understood.

"Torture has been a dark side of human history for centuries," Dr. Genefke says today. But the clinic she established in 1979 was the first of its kind anywhere devoted specifically to treat its victims.

When she began, it was still thought that torture could be restricted to a few bandit regimes, even eliminated. But it remains widespread. Fully one third of the 185 United Nations member states practice torture or tolerate its use.

The appalling realization that dungeon brutality had become the policy of many states changed Dr. Genefke's life. Determined to break through the curtain of apathy and ignorance in which torture flourished, she organized seminars, addressed rallies and raised money. Today there are more than 100 torture treatment centers around the world that were inspired by the efforts. The lives of tens of thousands have been changed by her and her team's work.

Essentially the same techniques are used around the world: slamming both ears simultaneously, often resulting in ruptured eardrums; rape and homosexual rape; electric torture; holding the victim's head under water polluted with human excrement to the verge of suffocation. A universal favorite is *falanga*, in which the victim is beaten on the soles of his feet often in an upside down position. Sometimes he is then made to walk barefoot on shards of glass.

When Ahmad, (some names have been changed to protect victim's families) a student leader from the Middle East, is brought to Copenhagen he cannot walk. The soft flesh on the bottom of his feet has been badly beaten and the soft tissue and nerve-endings severely damaged.

Ahmad remains at the clinic for a full year. In that time, psychotherapy helps him regain a true sense of himself. Then, having been treated with radiology, massage and other forms of physiotherapy, he walks out of the hospital with the help of a cane, but without pain.

Today, an intact human being, he is married and a father.

Nothing in Inge Genefke's early years foretold a life in which she would come face to face with the agony inflicted by one human being on another, or be nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

She grew up in middle class comfort, protected from life's harsher sides by warm and loving parents. A graduate of the University of Copenhagen, her career path as a specialist in neurology seemed fixed until she and three other physicians responded to a plea from Amnesty International to examine political prisoners of the infamous late sixties government of the Greek "Colonels."

They had been tortured, but some with such diabolical skill that there were no visible wounds, and only X rays and laboratory tests revealed their severe internal injuries. Deeply moved by their suffering, Dr. Genefke began a pioneering study into the uses and long-term consequences of torture, and of the medical treatment of its victims.

"In the beginning," Dr. Genefke says, "we thought, Okay, we patch them up, we set the broken bones and send them home. But we soon realized it was the pain in their hearts and souls that was devastating them."

Genefke had entered one of the least known branches of medicine. She had her little team, working with a few rooms and some beds made available at University Hospital, set out on a stop-and-go, trial-and-error quest for ways to heal the survivors of institutional torture.

In time, the clinical studies and principles for a rehabilitation programme would be shared with treatment centres around the world. All tangible medical symptoms are dealt with by specialists. Many of the patients believed what their captors had told them—that the torture had left them finished, living on borrowed time. So every symptom was checked, every presumed fatal illness probed, and nearly always disproved. Abused sinews and bones were ministered to by medicine, physiotherapy and surgery.

But, as Dr. Genefke says, broken bones are easier to mend than broken spirits. One study has revealed that of 100 Polish victims of Stalinist torture, 75 still suffered symptoms of severe stress or were chronically depressed 40 years later.

In Nepal, M, a factory worker in her twenties, is summarily arrested, beaten with rifle butts and raped by four policemen before losing consciousness. Charged with prostitution, she is moved from one town to another, verbally abused in public and repeatedly raped by police officers. A month after her arrest she is released and threatened with death if she takes any legal action.

Suffering constant bleeding, sleepless nights and blinding panic whenever she sees a man in uniform, she finally comes to the Nepalese Centre for the Victims of Torture.

"It's normal to feel ashamed," the therapist tells her, "but it's not your shame. The shame belongs to those who did these things to you."

Her family has to be helped to understand this, too. It takes time. So does her long and painful treatment. Eventually she and her family are able to put guilt, shame and despair behind them.

Inge Genefke set up the Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims in 1982. Three years later, she organized its international body, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), of which she became secretary-general and medical director.

She is married to Professor Bent Sorensen, a burns specialist and a member of the UN Committee against Torture. Their time together is precious. Dr. Genefke is constantly travelling to help launch new centres, to rally people to her cause. This September, she is organizing a conference in New Delhi with the National Human Rights Commission.

Despite the worldwide enormity of torture, many of the centres Dr. Genefke has inspired get little or no help from their governments. But she has an uncanny ability to win over gifted professionals willing to take up the cause. "One minute you have a certain kind of life and the next minute that whirlwind, Inge Genefke, comes along and you're on her team," said one.

Yet there are times when the task seems insuperable. She sees a ghostly army of torture survivors out there, from communist prisons, military dictatorships in Latin America, the victims of upheavals in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The number of victims seems to be growing, and her efforts to help them sometimes seem insignificant. "It is like trying to climb a mountain that keeps getting higher," she says.

Months of hospitalization and years of holistic therapy and rehabilitation were necessary before Miguel Lee was entirely sound. But now he has a steady job and with nine grandchildren, a full and rewarding family life. And in the end the junta did not defeat

him. Although he speaks Danish and is well-integrated into his new land, he spends much of his free time working for the preservation of the democratic freedoms Chile has wrested back from the military dictatorship.

Sometimes Inge Genefke has to seclude herself and spend an hour or so reading poetry to replenish her soul. But when she sees a man like Miguel Lee come back from the living dead, when she knows that her work has helped save some of this generation's best people from death and disability, she is again ready to tackle the highest mountain.

HONORING THE "OPERATION PROVIDE REFUGE" TEAM

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a group of Americans whose dedicated efforts truly made the proverbial difference in the lives of thousands of people. Too often in life we overlook the tremendous efforts of individuals who transcend their job descriptions and positively affect the lives of others. There are 60 men and women in my district of whom job descriptions don't exist.

On May 1, 1999, these 60 men and women were civilian employees at Fort Dix Army Base in Burlington County, N.J. In less than twenty-four hours, however, these diverse professionals would be united as full-fledged participants in "Operation Provide Refuge," an attempt to provide shelter for refugees from the Balkans. In just three days, these extraordinary individuals converted sterile Army barracks into a comfortable living space suitable for families. The Fort Dix civilians of Provide Refuge offered more than a housing facility to these refugees; they offered a home.

As the first group of refugees arrived at Fort Dix on May 5, they were greeted with a tradition perhaps more American than any other: open arms. The first contingent of refugees—like the ones that would arrive later—spanned the entire age spectrum, but was comprised largely of the very old and the very young. These men, women and children were given the food, medical care, and shelter they so desperately lacked in their native land.

On July 16, 1999, the last of the refugees left their temporary home at Fort Dix. In the two months that it was operational, Provide Refuge took in more than 4,000 refugees, restored them to health, and placed them with host families in 40 states across the country. While 4,043 people checked into the facility, by July 16, 4,050 had checked out: during the tenure of Provide Refuge, the medical staff ushered into this world seven new lives—seven new Americans.

The reason I stand before you today, Mr. Speaker, is to thank the workers who were truly the backbone of Operation Provide Refuge: Diana Bain, Denise Berry, Bernice Bonaparte, Audrey Bracey, James Butler, Arlee Cane, Jr., Arlene Clayton, Robert Cole, Donald Conklin, Maureen Coughlin, Normal Cowell, Patricia Cunningham, Karen Currin, David Dennison, Perry Domelevich, Frederick Dudley, Richard Esbensen, Sharon Fegley, Walter Gibson, Kenneth Gordon, Bonnie Graham, Richard Grzegorek, Richard Hatfield,

William Hodgkiss, Eric Hollinger, Robert Hurrell, Paul Imhof, William Kisner, Roberta James, Thomas Jones, John Laraway, Sarah Lawson, John Litterio, Harry Malatesta, Mary Marchut, Pedro Martinez, Raymond Matthews, Denise McCarthy, Diana Messersmith, Bernard Pierce, Joseph Randazzo, Kenneth Razillard, Norman Rimbey, Jacquie Roach, Gail Rosado, Richard Sanders, Douglas Satterfield, Jay Schopp, Ronald Sexton, Evelyn Stefula, Walter Streeter, John Sweeney, Joanne Tindall, Jose Toress, Robert Tucker, Leonard Valerio, Annemarie Walsh, John Wenner, Mary Wig, and Barbara Worthly.

These names will be entered into the permanent record at the Library of Congress documenting their accomplishments. These individuals symbolize everything that is good about America. They serve as a daily reminder of what public service is all about. These men and women went above and beyond their basic responsibilities in order to make someone else's life a little easier, and—in doing so—make the world a little better place to live. Once again, I would like to thank all the participants of Operation Provide Refuge: your dedication and selfless service is an inspiration to our nation and the world.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES T. CANADY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for the support of so many religious and public policy organizations in the passage of the Religious Liberty Protection Act. I would like to give special recognition to Prison Fellowship Ministries and Justice Fellowship, Christian Legal Society, Focus on the Family, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, American Center for Law and Justice, American Jewish Congress, Association of Christian Schools International, Family Research Council, Southern Baptist Convention: Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, United States Catholic Conference, Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and Council on Religious Freedom for their important contribution to this legislation.

I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Douglas Laycock, Alice McKean Young Regents Chair and Associate Dean of the University of Texas School of Law, for his invaluable legal analysis during the drafting and passage of the Religious Liberty Protection Act. I would also like to recognize the important contribution of the scholarship of Presidential Professor Michael McConnell of the University of Utah College of Law in the area of religious liberty.

I note that Congressman CHARLES W. STENHOLM from the 17th District of Texas requested to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1691 but was inadvertently omitted from the list of cosponsors.

UZBEKISTAN'S LITANY OF VIOLATIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I rise today to highlight the persecution of religious believers in Uzbekistan. The problem is worsening by the day, as the crackdown continues under the guise of "anti-terrorism." While there is some justifiable threat of terrorism, the widespread violations of rule of law and human rights perpetrated by authorities are not defensible, especially in light of Uzbekistan's OSCE commitments.

Under President Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan has been the second most repressive former Soviet republic, next to Turkmenistan. Karimov has used new constitutions and referendums extending his tenure to remain in office, where he seems determined to stay indefinitely. In mid-1992, he cracked down on all opposition parties, driving them underground or into exile, and all opposition or independent media were eliminated.

In Uzbekistan today, human rights are systematically violated. Arbitrary arrests, abuse and torture of detainees are pervasive, and flagrantly politicized judicial proceedings are routine. According to Human Rights Watch/Helsinki, there are well over 200 individuals who are prisoners of conscience either for their religious or political activities. Defendants have been convicted of criminal offenses based on forced confessions and planted evidence. The regime has also refused to register independent human rights monitoring organizations (the Human Rights Society and the Independent Human Rights Society), while groups which cooperate closely with the government (Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Individual) have been registered without delay. On June 25, Uzbek police savagely beat Mikhail Ardzinov, one of the country's most prominent human rights activists.

A key component of Uzbekistan's assault on human rights has been a thoroughgoing campaign against religious believers. Since 1997, hundreds of independent Muslim activists and believers associated with them have been arrested. In February of this year, bombs exploded in the capital, Tashkent, which killed sixteen bystanders and damaged government buildings, narrowly missing President Karimov and government officials. Karimov accused Muslim activists of having carried out a terrorist attack intended to assassinate him. The harassment and detention of Muslim activists has greatly intensified since then and an ongoing series of show trials had discredited them as dangerous religious extremists. Last month, six people were sentenced to death and another 16 received prison terms ranging from eight to 20 years in a trial that by no means met Western standards for due process. Since then, two arrested Muslims have died in prison, and there is no sign of a let up. President Karimov has argued that the threat of Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia's most populous and traditional state necessitates a hard line, especially because Islamic radicals from neighboring Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan are determined to subvert Uzbekistan's

secular, developing democracy. But the state's repressive policies are radicalizing Muslims and turning them against the regime.

Non-Muslims faiths, particularly Christians, have also been subjected to harassment, imprisonment and violations of their religious liberty, especially those who share their faith and are actively meeting. According to Compass Direct, Ibrahim Yusupov, the leader of a Pentecostal church in Tashkent, was tried and sentenced last month to one year in prison on charges of conducting missionary activity. Another court in June sentenced Christian pastor Na'il Asanov to five years in prison on charges of possession of drugs and spreading extremist ideas. As with other cases mentioned below, witnesses attest that police planted a packet of drugs on Pastor Asanov and also severely beat him while he was in detention.

Also in June, three members of the Full Gospel Church in Nukus were sentenced to long prison sentences. Pastor Rashid Turibayev received a 15-year sentence, while Parhad Yangibayev and Issed Tanishiev received 10-year sentences for "deceiving ordinary people" as well as possessing and using drugs. Their appeal was denied on July 13. Reports indicate that they have suffered severe beatings in prison, have been denied food and medical attention, and their personal possessions have been confiscated by the police, leaving their families destitute. Recently, the most senior Pentecostal leader in Uzbekistan, Bishop Leonty Lulkin, and two other church members were tried and sentenced on charges of illegally meeting. The sentence they received was a massive fine of 100 times the minimum monthly wage. The leaders of Baptist churches, Korean churches, the Jehovah's Witnesses, as well as many others, have also been subjected to harsh legal penalties. Although they have filed for registration, local authorities refused to sign their documents.

Mr. Speaker, the State Department's report on Human Rights Practices for 1998 reported that the Uzbekistan law on religion "limits freedom of religion" with strict registration requirements which make it virtually impossible for smaller church organizations to gain legal status. The law passed in June 1998, "prohibits proselytizing, bans religious subjects in school curriculums, prohibits teaching of religious principles, forbids the wearing of religious clothing in public by anyone except clerics, and requires all religious groups and congregations to register or re-register." Also approved last May was a second law establishing the penalties if one were convicted of violating any of the statutes on religious activities. The penalties can range anywhere from lengthy prison sentences, massive fines, and confiscation of property, to denial of official registration rights. On May 12 of this year, Uzbekistan tightened its Criminal Code, making participation in an unregistered religious group a criminal offense, punishable by a fine equivalent to fifty times the minimum monthly wage or imprisonment of up to three years.

Mr. Speaker, these actions indicate that the policies of the Government of Uzbekistan toward religious groups are not moving in the right direction.

In fact, these initiatives are in direct violation to Uzbekistan's OSCE commitments, including Article 16.3 of the Vienna Concluding Document which states that "the State will grant upon their request to communities of believers, practicing or prepared to practice their

faith within the constitutional framework of their States, recognition of the status provided for them in the respective countries." In the Copenhagen Concluding Document of 1990 Article 9.1, Uzbekistan has committed to "reaffirm that everyone will have the right to freedom of expression including the right to communication. This right will include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers." Uzbekistan's current course of strangling all forms of religious discourse is a flagrant, deliberate, and unrelenting violation of these principles.

Last year Congress overwhelmingly passed the Religious Freedom Act of 1998 which reaffirmed the United States' commitment to supporting religious freedom abroad through U.S. foreign policy. Considering the litany of violations affecting religious liberty and the ongoing persecution of believers, it is time for Congress to consider our aid programs to Uzbekistan, including our military cooperation programs which cost about 33 million dollars in this year alone. Congress should also reconsider our trade relationship with Uzbekistan and scrutinize other programs such as Cooperative Threat Reduction where we can leverage our influence to help protect religious liberty and human rights.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR EDWARD QUAGLIA

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor Edward Quaglia of Herrin, Illinois. Mayor Quaglia served the people and city of Herrin faithfully for more than twenty years; seven of those years as an alderman on the City Council, and for 15 years as mayor. This year, on May 31, Mayor Quaglia retired as Mayor due to health concerns. In honor of his retirement, the City of Herrin, the City Council of Herrin, and Mayor Victor Ritter have proclaimed July 18, 1999 as "Mayor Edward Quaglia Day."

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Quaglia will be long remembered by the good people of the City of Herrin, southern Illinois, and the entire State for his determined dedication to making Herrin a better place to live and to raise a family. Mayor Quaglia will not only be remembered for his numerous achievements including improving the city's infrastructure, and his hard work on development and construction of the Civic Center, the Annual Mayor's Community Wide Thanksgiving Dinner for the poor and homeless, the High School Sport's Complex, and planning the city's premier annual event Herrifesta Italiana, but most importantly for his compassionate and straight-forward leadership style. He always gave all he had for a good cause and put the welfare of the citizens and City of Herrin first. When speaking of Mayor Quaglia, it is impossible not to mention his family, which is so important to him. His wife JoAnne has always stood by his side and been the light of his life. He has five loving children and four beautiful grandchildren.

I know that Mayor Quaglia will be sorely missed by all of Herrin in his retirement. But

it is a retirement well earned, and one that I am sure that Edward Quaglia, and his family and friends, will enjoy with him to the fullest. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my fellow Members to share in my wish to extend Mayor Quaglia a long, healthy, and happy retirement along with Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO BOB TOBIAS

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise in tribute to Bob Tobias, who is retiring after 31 years with the National Treasury Employees Union—including sixteen years as its president. He has been a tireless and effective advocate for the workers he represents, and he is a well-regarded spokesperson for the interests of all federal employees.

I got to know Bob in 1996 when we were both appointed to the National Commission on Restructuring the IRS, which I co-chaired with Senator BOB KERREY. He was an active and productive member of the Restructuring Commission, and helped to develop a number of the Commission's recommendations that were later signed into law as part of the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act.

I admire Bob for speaking up on IRS reform at a time when I suspect many of his members were uneasy about the long-term ramifications of the restructuring effort. He deserves a great deal of credit for helping to shape a bill that will not only benefit American taxpayers, but will also create a greatly improved work environment for IRS employees.

I understand that Bob plans to teach and write on public policy issues after leaving the NTEU. But he will also be continuing to work on IRS reform—I understand that he will be nominated by the President to serve on the IRS Oversight Board.

Bob played an important role in creating the framework for a new IRS for the 21st Century. I look forward to continuing to work with him in his role on the IRS Oversight Board, and I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE LAND RECYCLING ACT OF 1999

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Land Recycling Act of 1999 along with a strong bipartisan group of co-sponsors. The Act will remove Federal barriers to the cleanup of brownfields across the country. Removing these barriers will spur investors, benefit cleanup contractors and provide tools for state and local governments to tackle this longstanding problem. These efforts will provide for more livable, secure and vibrant neighborhoods. The blight that has dominated both urban and rural areas should not continue.

My bill will bring about aggressive state reclamation and cleanup of brownfields—aban-

doned or underutilized former industrial properties where actual or potential environmental contamination hinders redevelopment or prevents it altogether. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] estimates that there may be as many as 500,000 such sites nationwide. In my own congressional district, the southern portion of Bucks County is estimated to have 3 square miles of abandoned or underutilized industrial property.

These well-positioned, once-productive industrial real estate sites pose continuing risks to human health and the environment, erode state and local tax bases, hinder job growth, and allow existing infrastructure to go to waste. Moreover, the reluctance to utilize brownfields has led developers to bulldoze greenfields, which do not pose the risk of liability. Development in these areas contributes to suburban sprawl, and eliminates future recreational and agricultural uses. The Land Recycling Act will help stop urban erosion, and provide incentives to the redevelopment of our cities and towns across the country.

The brownfields problem has many causes. Foremost among them is the existing Federal law itself. Under the Superfund law, parties who currently own or operate a facility can be held 100 percent liable for any cleanup costs regardless of whether they contributed to the environmental contamination and regardless of whether they were in any way at fault. Because of the potential for this kind of liability, it is simply not worth dealing with the environmental exposure as long as developers have the alternative of building in rural areas where they are not exposed to liability. Owners can't sell and instead simply mothball them indefinitely. Cleanup contractors face uncertain liability.

Unrealistic standards and one-size-fits-all remedy selection also prevent voluntary actions and leave sites in years of red tape. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [RCRA] poses nearly identical concerns. Under section 7003 of that law, for instance, EPA has broad authority to order a current owner-operator to address environmental contamination, again, regardless of fault.

Thirty-two states have launched so-called voluntary cleanup programs. We must help these programs thrive. Under these initiatives property owners comply with state cleanup plans and are then released from further environmental liability at the site. The subcommittee has received testimony in the past from a variety of states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], demonstrating that these state voluntary cleanup programs have been responsible for the redevelopment of hundreds of brownfields. In the first year the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted its brownfields program, it succeeded in cleaning 35 sites.

Although many of these state laws have proven successful, states, businesses, and other experts have testified that the possibility of continuing Federal liability despite an agreement to limit State liability—the so-called dual master problem—seriously diminishes the effectiveness of State voluntary cleanup programs. Because redevelopers face the potential for cleanup obligations above and beyond what a State has decided is appropriate to protect health and the environment, they may hesitate to enter into agreements with sellers to purchase idle properties. The testimony establishes, in my mind, that if brownfields redevelopers could be confident that the cleanup

agreements entered into with States would not be second-guessed by EPA, then they would be far more likely to agree to conduct a cleanup.

The Land Recycling Act of 1999 is based on the input of all of the stakeholders in the brownfields debate—the federal government, states, local governments, clean-up contractors, sellers, buyers, developers, lenders, environmentalists, community interests, and others—and in particular based on my own experiences in my district. Among other things, the bill provides “finality” for brownfields cleanups done pursuant to, and in compliance with, State programs, releasing buyers and sellers from liability and litigation under federal law. This certainly is number one on the wish list for developers and Rust Belt businesses. It will also provide liability protection under federal law for a number of nonpolluters, including: innocent landowners, prospective purchasers, contiguous property owners, and response action contractors—thus removing disincentives to cleanup and reuse. This legislation will streamline the federal cleanup process and employ sound and objective science. Finally, the Land Recycling Act of 1999 will provide brownfield grants to states, local governments, and Indian tribes for the inventory and assessment of brownfield sites and the capitalization of revolving loan funds for cleanups.

I believe these straightforward solutions will provide an aggressive antidote to the wasteful burden of brownfields in America and are part of the overall set of solutions we must pursue to reform the nation's broken hazardous waste laws. I reemphasize this is a bipartisan effort. Reform efforts that are strictly Democrat or strictly Republican mean the group has a point to make but is not serious about enacting legislation in the 106th Congress.

While I am confident that the Land Recycling Act will go a very long way, we in Congress also have a larger task at hand—overhaul of the Superfund Program to ensure that we do not perpetuate the brownfields problem across the country. The Congress needs to address fairness and liability issues for small business recyclers and others. The Land Recycling Act of 1999 is only a piece of the puzzle. I look to the chairman of the Commerce Committee, Mr. BLILEY, and the chairman of the Finance and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, Mr. OXLEY, for continued leadership on Superfund reform to address the areas that we can and must address. These two chairmen have fought for Superfund reform and continue their interest in real solutions. The bill last Congress, H.R. 3000, The Superfund Reform Act, had 19 Democrat cosponsors and represented a strong bipartisan effort. I hope that 1999 offers more promise, and that they will again consider including the Land Recycling Act as part of their Superfund reform effort.

A TRIBUTE TO BRIG. GEN. PAUL R. COOPER

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Brigadier General Paul R. Cooper,

the commander of the Air Force Reserve Command's 440th Airlift Wing, since August 1995. General Cooper is leaving this post and on August 1 will assume his new duties as the Commander of the 445 Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Milwaukee's loss is surely Ohio's gain.

A native of Seattle, Washington, General Cooper graduated in 1967 from the University of Washington with a degree in chemistry and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He has been a wing commander, group commander and installation commander at two Air Force Reserve bases. General Cooper was recalled to active duty during Operation Desert Storm, where he served as commander of a composite C-130 unit deployed to the Middle East for six months. He was selected to return to extended active duty from June to October 1996 to command the 4100th Group and serve as the installation commander of the NATO Air Base, Boznia-Herzegovina, as part of the implementation force under Operation Joint Endeavor. General Cooper is a command pilot with over 11,500 flight hours.

General Cooper and his wife Kathy will be honored at a farewell dinner and reception July 30 in Milwaukee at which time the Coopers' many friends and colleagues will have an opportunity to show their appreciation for a job well done at the 440th.

I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank General Cooper for all his assistance over the last four years when I have called on him to aide the members of the unit as well as the Milwaukee community. In fact, just last month General Cooper showed his commitment to our community by presiding over a military medals presentation in which I was proud to distribute well-deserved medals to World War II soldiers and their families.

Again, on behalf of the men and women of the 440th and the entire southeastern Wisconsin community, thank you General Cooper for a job well done. God bless you and best wishes at your new post.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain that I was unable to vote on Messrs. GILMAN and MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. GIBBONS amendments to H.R. 2415, the American Embassy Security Act. I was needed at home in Missouri for family reasons. At the time of the votes, I was flying back to Washington and was unable to return in time.

If I had voted, I would have voted yes on Messrs. GILMAN and MARKEY's amendment to restrict all nuclear agreements and cooperation between the U.S. and Korea. I would have voted yes on Mr. SANDERS' amendment to prohibit State Department employees from imposing restrictions or interfering on Asian and African nations from importing prescription medications from the lowest-priced source available. And I would have voted yes on Mr. GIBBONS' amendment to require the Secretary of State to issue regulations authorizing that certain requirements be adhered to before a person younger than 14 years of age may be issued his or her first passport.

RESULTS OF AN EDUCATION FIELD HEARING

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report on the field hearing that the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth & Families held in my district—in Anaheim, California—on parent and community involvement in education this month.

Today's children bring so many needs to our classrooms. And we are all responsible for making sure those needs are met—parents, teachers and educators; federal, state and local government; the corporate and nonprofit sectors; our institutions of higher learning and law enforcement.

Teachers can't meet those needs alone. Parents can't do it alone. It's too late for our universities to do it once our kids get to college. And recent events all over our nation have proven that our young people certainly can't make it on their own.

Schools need adequate resources—especially those with the children and the families who need it the most—so our schools can focus on education instead of fundraising. That falls to all of us.

So at this hearing, we discussed how our communities can and should work with our schools. We heard from parents, teachers, students and members of the community on how to do that.

After the conclusion of the formal field hearing, I was able to conduct a question and answer period for members of the community who were in attendance.

This was an opportunity to examine issues that may not have been brought up by the panelists—for example the role of fathers in children's lives. As the traditional breadwinner in the family, fathers who work all day have rarely had time in the past to take an active role in the child's education. Fathers who do take part in the educational pursuits of their children have boosted self-esteem levels that have been lacking in these children. Simple tasks such as reading with and to children and helping with homework, are two ways that involve fathers in this process. Fathers do play a crucial role in the education of their children, a point community members wanted to highlight.

The need for gun safety was also stressed. Requirements, such as a minimum age of 21 and background checks for gun purchases play a significant role in keeping our schools and children safe.

The important question of funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was also raised. While educators look to the federal government to provide 40 percent of the funding for this program, many schools receive only 11 percent of the funding needed and are forced to compensate with local resources. The need to fill in this funding gap was stressed because without sufficient funding for this program more handicapped children are at risk of incarceration and substance abuse.

Suggestions were also made on how to improve education at both the federal and local levels. Citizens expressed their wishes on several items.

Congress should receive input from private schools.

All parents of school-age children should participate in parent education programs.

Parent education programs should include material on parental involvement in the classroom.

Early childhood/preschool programs such as Head Start should be funded at higher levels.

Furthermore, another topic discussed was the re-evaluation of funds at the federal level and the reallocation of funds already distributed by the Department of Education.

As for the local level, the public raised the need for community organizations to work directly with citizens on such projects as building a new community athletic facility, as such opportunities were deemed worthy extracurricular programs for children.

I was impressed by the number of citizens who attended the hearing. The levels of community awareness and public support evident at the event were appreciated and inspiring. All in all, the day proved that it does take an entire community—parents, businesses, citizens and school personnel—to educate a child.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 19, 1999, due to the failure of USAirways to provide scheduled airline service, I missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

H.R. 1033, the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act: "aye."

H. Con. Res. 121, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the victory of the United States in the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall: "aye."

H.R. 1477, to withhold voluntary proportional assistance for programs and projects of the International Atomic Energy Agency relating to the development and completion of the Bushehr nuclear plan in Iran: "aye."

IN HONOR OF NTEU PRESIDENT ROBERT TOBIAS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Tobias, the dedicated president of the National Treasury Employees Union who, after 16 years of leadership, has decided to step down from his post to pursue writing and teaching the next generation about the importance of protecting the rights of workers everywhere. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge his years of leadership and service to his fellow workers, and to his country.

Since he first joined the NTEU 31 years ago, Robert Tobias has stood up for the fundamental rights of his fellow federal employees—fair pay, health coverage, the right of employees to have a role in overseeing their agencies, and a secure transition to stable re-

tirements. He has played a vital role in building the labor-management partnership in the federal government today. His extraordinary work and dedication in carrying out his duties has had a profound impact on the hard working men and women throughout the NTEU.

Robert Tobias' distinguished career has been a great source of pride. His dedication and determination to improve the lives of the hard working families of federal employees will be his lasting legacy. The members of the NTEU and the nation have all benefitted from his unwavering commitment. For this, I join my colleagues in offering him our gratitude.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF GEORGE BROWN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and distinguished colleague, Congressman George Brown of California's 42nd Congressional District. I worked alongside of Representative Brown for 33 years and will remember his service to Congress as one dedicated to improving the quality of life not only for his constituents but for all of us.

George Brown started off his illustrious career not as the public servant we remember him by, but as a young student in the 1930's. It was on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles where he began his crusade for a better nation by organizing the first integrated campus housing. Being the great leader he was, George was the first to integrate UCLA's housing by taking on an African-American roommate. Later in his life Representative Brown was proud to continue his push for civil rights when he voted for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. A picture of George, President Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hung on his wall as a constant reminder to the signing of that act into law.

Upon graduating from UCLA with a degree in Industrial Physics, Brown put his degree to good use with the City of Los Angeles. It was there that he helped organize the city's workers and its veteran's housing projects. Then in 1954 George Brown won his first election as a member of the city council in Monterey Park, CA. One year later in 1955 he became mayor of the same city. The dedication he held for the issues dearest to him kept Brown moving as he was elected to the California State Assembly in 1958. As a member of the state assembly Brown introduced an environmentally friendly piece of legislation that called for a ban on lead in gasoline, the first ever of its kind. What we later learned is that this was only the beginning of George's fight for a cleaner, safer environment.

In 1962 George Brown ran for the 29th district in California. He won the House seat easily that year beating his opponent by an 11 percentage point margin. Serving on the House Committee on Science and Aeronautics, Brown was a staunch supporter of the advancement of the space program and the pursuit of technology that would improve all of our lives. George believed that technology should be included in the education of our

children and worked hard to accomplish this goal throughout his career. In more recent years Congressman Brown was found supporting international scientific cooperation and attempting to establish joint research programs between the United States, Russia and Mexico.

During the 1960's and into the 1970's, Congressman Brown was a strong voice in protest to the Vietnam War. He argued that the no matter how long we fought and how many troops we sent over to Vietnam, we could not find world peace from a war that was slaughtering peasants. Throughout the war, he tried time and again to get the attention of the nation. One such time found Representative Brown outside on the steps of the Capitol Building demanding that if the police were going to arrest 13 peaceful war protesters for disturbing the peace, then they should arrest him too.

When I think back to this time I'm reminded of the group that Bob Kastenmeier from Wisconsin, Don Edwards from California, George, myself and several others formed to stop the war effort. After the release of the Pentagon Papers our efforts in the group intensified to bring an end to the war, perhaps the hardest worker of all of us being George.

As hard as he fought the Vietnam War, perhaps the issue closest to the Honorable Congressman's heart was the environment. It was Representative Brown who first spoke out against the dangers of burning fossil fuel. It was George Brown teaching the nation about the harmful effects of freon in the ozone layer. It was Brown again telling us that we had better keep an eye on the global climate change for our sake and the sake of our children. And then it was Congress, following his lead, enacting provisions in the Clean Air Act that would help the nation monitor the levels of these pollutants in our air and keep a watchful eye on the ever-changing world climate. One of Representative Brown's most notable achievements was the work he put into the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Through this agency we can rest assured, knowing the policies of the fine Congressman from California will be followed through as he would want them.

In looking back at George Brown's life, we look back at a life dedicated to promoting the beliefs of a man that was committed to making the world a better, cleaner, more peaceful place for us to live. His hard work on the tough issues will be missed, but most of all we will simply miss the strong-willed, intelligent, caring man that George Brown was.

CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN IN SPORTS AND THE SUCCESS OF TITLE XI

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the success of title IX—especially for its enormous contributions to the development of women sports. I commend the women's caucus and my colleagues, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD and Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, for scheduling this

special order on the remarkable achievements of women in sports and the impact of title IX. I also want to recognize our colleague Congresswoman PATSY MINK and former Congresswoman Edith Green who authored and initiated title IX.

Title IX states,

No person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal aid.

Before title IX, many schools saw no problem in refusing to admit women or in applying more stringent admissions criteria to women.

Title IX has made an enormous contribution to improving the status of women. When title IX was passed in 1972, women received 9 percent of medical degrees; now, women receive 38 percent of medical degrees. Today, women earn 43 percent of all law degrees, compared to 7 percent in 1972; today, 44 percent of all doctoral degrees are awarded to women compared to 25 percent in 1977.

In 1900, women competed in the Olympics for the first time, but only in the "genteel" sports of tennis and golf. The passage of title IX set off a period of rapid growth in women's sports. Today, women compete in track and field, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, gymnastics, skating, golf, and softball, just to name a few sports.

Women have significantly increased their participation in collegiate sports and, today, we even have women in professional sports leagues such as the WNBA.

This year, the United States hosted the third Women's World Cup, one of the biggest women's sporting events to date. Over 90,000 people packed the Rose Bowl to watch the U.S. Women's Soccer Team win the gold. The U.S. Women's Soccer Team has taught us all that anything is possible if you dare to dream; that by raising the bar of expectations, there can be no limits; that if you are allowed to fully realize your potential, you can achieve. Thousands of young women throughout the country surely have formed new dreams and goals as they watched our women's soccer team compete for the gold. We can thank title IX for these new dreams and goals.

I am a former athlete. I ran track and played basketball in college. I earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology and physical education from Florida A&M University, and a master's degree in public health and physical education from the University of Michigan. I coached women's basketball at Bethune-Cookman College and taught biological sciences and physical education. I know about women in sports. I congratulate all the women who are participating in sports, especially the 1999 U.S. Women's Soccer Team.

I am proud to be a woman. I am also proud that Congress passed title IX and expanded opportunities for women to participate and achieve in sports, and attend our academic institutions.

We need to protect and enhance title IX's achievements. If we do so, the future for women will be boundless.

MR. GRANT HOUSTON DESIGNATED AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FOR 1999

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

MR. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take a moment to honor Mr. Grant Houston. Mr. Houston is a man of outstanding leadership ability and an active member of the Lake City, CO, community. For his efforts, hard work, and dedication to the citizens of Lake City, I commend Mr. Houston for receiving designation as "Citizen of the Year" for 1999, and thank him for the example he has set.

Born in Gunnison in 1955, Mr. Houston moved as an infant to Lake City where he continues to reside. He is an accomplished writer and historian. Using his talents and passions for history and writing, he helped to found the historical society in 1973, and was the founder and editor of the Silver World Newspaper. Currently, he serves the historical society as president of the foundation.

Mr. Houston has collected and shared a great legacy of local history by combining his love of history with his love of writing. He was first published at the age of 21 with a brief history of Lake City, called Lake City Reflections. He went on to serve as editor of the Western State College newspaper, and to write Reflections. Mr. Houston's local publications include various maps, guide books and histories.

Not only has he served his community by recording history and keeping them informed through the establishment of a newspaper, he was also appointed to two significant boards by former Colorado Governor Roy Romer, one of them being the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission. Mr. Grant Houston has worked as a member of the Review Board for the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Grant Houston has dedicated much time and energy to preserving history and keeping the citizens of his community informed. For his efforts and leadership, I now wish to pay tribute to this remarkable and to thank him for giving so much to the people of Lake City and citizens of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN GERRY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

MR. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Alan Gerry of Denver, CO, for his outstanding service and hard work. Because of his strong work ethic and innovative ideas in the cable industry, I wish to honor Mr. Gerry.

As founder, chairman and CEO of Cablevision Industries Corporation, Mr. Gerry led the corporation to become the eighth largest multiple system operator in the United States before merging with Time Warner in 1996. Alan Gerry is a member of the Board of C-SPAN, the industry public affairs programming network, and is a founding member of the Board of the Cable Alliance for Education and

was the president of the New York State Cable Television Association.

Currently, Mr. Alan Gerry serves as chairman and CEO of Granite Associates LP. He also dedicates time to serving as the campaign chairperson and member of the Board of Directors for the National Cable Television Center and Museum. Mr. Gerry is a pioneer in the cable industry, and his entrepreneurial spirit and vision have helped him achieve great success.

Over the years, he has been recognized for his leadership and dedication in a number of different capacities. In 1987, he received the Americanism Award from the Anti-Defamation League and in 1989 he was honored by the Boy Scouts of America with the Distinguished Citizen Award. Presented with the Entrepreneur-of-the-Year Award in 1992 for the New England Chapter of the Institute of American Entrepreneurs, Mr. Gerry went on to receive the Vanguard Award for Distinguished Leadership in 1995.

Mr. Alan Gerry is a unique individual and I appreciate the example he sets and the inspiration he provides. I am grateful for his commitment, work ethic, and innovation and I wish to commend his efforts.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER BILL MITCHELL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

MR. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Mr. Roger Bill Mitchell of Monte Vista, CO. Because of his dedication and years of service for the people of Colorado and the Colorado Farm Bureau, I wish to honor Mr. Mitchell and thank him for his work.

Born and raised in Monte Vista, Mr. Mitchell went to Adams State College in Alamosa, CO, where he received a B.A. in business administration. Currently, Roger Bill Mitchell is the manager of Mitchell Farms, a family partnership that raises potatoes and malting barley. He has served on the boards of various civic and community groups, serving as vice president of the local weed district, secretary of the drainage district, past board member and secretary of the San Luis Valley Administrative Committee and of the Monte Vista Potato Cooperative.

First elected as the president of the Colorado Farm Bureau in 1992, he was re-elected in 1994 and in 1996. He served as president of the Rio Grande County Farm Bureau and was the district 7 director on the State Board of Directors. While a member of the State Board, he served as a State Young Farmer and Rancher chairman, secretary, and vice president.

In 1991, Mr. Roger Mitchell was appointed by former Gov. Roy Romer, to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission and he served as the only farmer on the commission until 1997. Mr. Mitchell's involvement has been extensive, including work with advisory committees for wetlands, watershed management, and waste treatment plants. His efforts have been honored with the presentation of the Jaycee's State Outstanding Farmer and Coors Barley Outstanding Grower Awards.

As Mr. Mitchell retires from his position on the Colorado Farm Bureau, I would like to thank him for his unprecedented service and outstanding leadership. I am grateful for his involvement and work for the citizens and farmers of Colorado. Mr. Mitchell is a remarkable individual and I wish him the best of luck as he turns the page on a new chapter in life.

TRIBUTE TO NAOMI AND ZACK
PRENDERGAST

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Naomi and Zack Prendergast for their dedication to their family and for their recognition as the 1999 Parents of the Year for America. Because of their commitment to family and serving others, they are quite deserving of praise.

Meeting over 22 years ago in a shelter for abandoned children in Italy, Naomi and Zack found a common desire to serve others. They were married and began a life together which has taken them around the world in their personal ministry. The parents of 12 children, they are unique not only because of their large family, but for their dedication to raising their children to serve.

Five years ago, the Prendergast family moved to Longmont, CO. From the broad range of volunteer and service efforts which they have undertaken, an organization known as Family Service, Inc., has emerged. With such a large family, and such dedication to service, helping others has always been a family affair for the Prendergasts. Their family singing group performs at nursing homes, schools, shelters and various other places where inspiration and joy may be given.

The Prendergast family also began an effort to gather donated food for area homeless shelters. Family Services, Inc., with the help and generosity of community members, provides donated food each week to these shelters, donating an average of 8,000 pounds of food per month. Zack has found time to run a project, in addition to the various projects he works on, to promote responsible fatherhood. St. Vrain Fatherhood Connection offers parenting classes for young fathers and a support group located at a local church.

I am grateful for people like the Prendergast family, who not only strive to serve, but teach their children the importance of respect and service as well. For their dedication to helping others, their involvement in bettering the community in which they live, and for sharing their fundamental values and work ethic with their children and the citizens of Longmont, I wish to commend Zack and Naomi and recognize their achievements. They are unique and I greatly appreciate their noble efforts.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JASPER
WELCH OF DURANGO, CO. FOR
HIS DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. Jasper Welch of Durango, CO. Because of his community involvement and service, and dedication to leadership Mr. Welch is quite deserving of recognition and praise. He is an outstanding citizen and I greatly appreciate his hard work and the example he sets.

Mr. Welch received a bachelor of science degree in 1975 from the University of Colorado where he graduated with distinction. He is a certified trainer and consultant for the Professional Dynametric Programs, a Certified Elected Official by the Colorado Municipal League, and a certified facilitator and trainer for the Zenger-Miller training systems.

Mr. Jasper Welch is a distinguished member of the Durango community, dedicating time and energy to various pursuits and causes. Serving as the cochair of Leadership La Plata from 1988 until 1998, Mr. Welch has encouraged the development of leadership skills of Durango's youth. He has found time to serve as chairman of the Transportation Board, as member of the board of directors for the Hundred Club of Durango, as mayor of Durango, and has held various other service and leadership role.

Jasper Welch has committed great time and energy to the betterment of Durango and those around him. I am grateful to him for his hard work and for the example he has set. For his strong work ethic, perseverance, and continued leadership, I commend him and pay tribute to this remarkable man. I hope that he will continue in his noble pursuits to educate, inspire, and serve others.

HONORING JAMES D. McELHANNON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James D. McElhannon as he has been awarded with the nation's Military Order of the Purple Heart Award.

James D. McElhannon is a resident of Lemoore, and a retired Master Sergeant of the Korean War. During his time served in Korea, he was wounded in the battle for the Nakdong River on September 10–20, 1950. Sergeant McElhannon was leading his platoon (2nd platoon, Charlie, 3rd combat Engineer Battalion) on a night reconnaissance when enemy forces began firing their weapons. McElhannon was wounded by a mortar attack, receiving shrapnel in his leg. He refused medical attention in order to continue his mission. Though losing blood through the night, Sergeant McElhannon used his own bayonet to remove the shrapnel in his leg. The 2nd Platoon Charlie Company held fast did not withdraw until the platoon was officially relieved.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor James D. McElhannon for his bravery and

commitment in the Korean War. His courage has lead him to receive the nation's Military Order of the Purple Heart Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing James McElhannon many more years of success.

HONORING WILLIAM A. GALLINA
ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man who embodies what it means to be a true American, a dedicated family man, an accomplished professional, and a consummate citizen of New York City, William A. Gallina, on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

William, or "Bill" as he is known by those closest to him, has lifelong roots in the Bronx. Born on his parents' kitchen table in the West Farms section of the Bronx on July 26, 1939, Bill blazed an exceptional path from the very beginning.

Growing up in the South Bronx home of his immigrant parents, his mother from Germany, his father from Italy, Bill attended Public School 6, Herman Ridder Junior High School, and earned his diploma at James Monroe High School. Following high school graduation, Bill attended New York State Maritime College where he spent three years studying Maritime Engineering, then transferred to Fairleigh Dickinson University where he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

After graduation, he began working at Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation where he and a small group of rocket propulsion engineers successfully helped in the design of the descent engine of the Lunar Excursion Modules (L.E.M.) fulfilling President John F. Kennedy's dream and America's promise of landing on the moon before the close of the 1960s.

While working for Grumman, Bill attended St. John's University Law School in the evenings, graduating in 1967 with a Juris Doctor degree. Upon graduation from law school he went to work for a major Wall Street law firm specializing in intellectual property, eventually leaving to open his own firm specializing in criminal and personal injury law. He returned to the Bronx in the early 1970s where he was instrumental in constructing a professional medical office complex where he maintained his office for the practice of law.

To this day, he continues to practice law in Bronx County where he has become one of the leading personal injury attorneys in the metropolitan New York area. His parents continued to live in Bronx County until their passing. Bill's mother used the very same kitchen table on which he was born until her death in 1997 at the age of 98.

Bill is married to the former Ronnie Bernon and has an 11-year-old son, three daughters from a prior marriage, and two grandchildren. He is active in local and national bar associations, in particular, the New York State Trial Lawyers where he serves as a member of the Board of Directors, fighting to protect the rights of accident victims.

Bill is an avid sailor, spending his limited free time sailing the waters of Long Island Sound.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending William A. Gallina of Bronx, New York for a remarkable life on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BUCKLEY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and to pay tribute to Mr. James Buckley, Executive Director of University Neighborhood Housing Program in my South Bronx district. He was selected to receive a James A. Johnson Community Fellowship from the Fannie Mae Foundation for his significant contributions to the fields of affordable housing and community development. Mr. Buckley is one of only six individuals selected through a national nomination process to receive this fellowship in the inaugural year of this program.

Mr. Speaker, James Buckley founded the University Neighborhood Housing program (UNHP) in 1989 and has served as its Executive Director since then. As a Fordham University student in 1975, Mr. Buckley interned with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NBCCC) as a community organizer, and he later served as its Executive Director. As a result of his organizing efforts at NBCCC, the Fordham Bedford Housing Corporation (FBHC) was formed, which has reclaimed thousands of units of housing and presently owns and/or manages 70 multi-family apartment buildings.

As the Director of the Reinvestment Project at the NBCCC, Mr. Buckley attracted over \$100 million in public and private funds to area neighborhoods, which led to the creation of 1,500 units of safe, sanitary, affordable housing units for community residents. As a result of these efforts, two additional non-profit community housing corporations were created that went on to develop residential properties with tenant or community ownership.

Mr. Speaker, the Johnson fellows Program was created to honor the leadership and distinguished service of former Fannie Mae Foundation Chairman James A. Johnson. The Fellows program is designed to reward and recognize outstanding leaders and promote innovation in the affordable housing and community development fields. Each fellow will receive a \$70,000 grant and plus a \$20,000 educational travel/study stipend to pursue a self-designed course of professional development to enhance the individual's skills and field experiences and to explore new solutions to current affordable housing or community development challenges.

Mr. Speaker, being selected for this program indicates that James Buckley has demonstrated that he has the ability and the desire to be an asset and a role model in our community. We are proud of his accomplishments and I know he will take full advantage of the opportunity presented to him. He is a terrific example for community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. James Buckley for his outstanding accomplishments, and in commending the Fannie Mae Foundation for honoring these six outstanding leaders and giving

them the opportunity to do even more for their communities.

HONORING MILLARD NELSON

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Millard Nelson. Millard Nelson has distinguished himself by his life-long commitment to his family, his community and the Democratic Party.

Millard Nelson has worked as a farmer, substitute mail carrier, and office manager for the Pierce County Agriculture, Stabilization and Conservation Office. Millard has been dedicated to public service throughout his life. He served as the President of the Salem Town Board, a member of the Pierce County Board and the assessor for the Gilmanton Township. Millard has also been active in many conservation programs in his native Pierce County, and it is estimated that throughout his life he has planted more than 500,000 trees in Pierce County. These trees are Millard's lasting gift to future generations of Pierce County citizens.

Millard Nelson is perhaps best known for his life-long commitment to the Democratic Party. Millard was involved in the founding of the current Democratic Party in Wisconsin in 1949 and has served the party in a variety of capacities since that time. Millard and his wife Ellen have been pillars of the Democratic Party for over 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, this country needs more citizens like Millard Nelson. He has lived his life committed to the principle that we must make this world better for future generations. I rise today in the United States House of Representatives to honor Millard Nelson and thank him for his lifetime of commitment to Pierce County and the Wisconsin Democratic Party.

RECOGNIZING VALERIE SANDEFUR

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the outstanding accomplishment of Valerie Sandefur.

Valerie is a High School student at Albuquerque Academy, in Albuquerque, New Mexico and recently won the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary "Voice of Democracy" broadcast scriptwriting contest. The contest asked students to create a speech based on the theme "My Service to America." Her speech was judged the best from New Mexico.

Valerie spoke about how she and all of us could better serve our country by re-enforcing the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. In her speech she said:

"We are no longer a nation indivisible, we are increasingly a nation invisible. My service to America is to put the meaning back into the pledge of allegiance and to create again the idea of 'one nation.' However, there are two challenges to regaining our allegiance—apathy and ignorance."

She continued to describe how apathy leads to a loss of participation and interest in democracy. Valerie then told how ignorance has caused even greater problems than apathy. She said she feels American society is devaluing virtues such as ambition, leadership and heroism, and that Americans are losing their uniquely American character, their sense of nationality and their spirit of patriotism.

There are lessons in her speech the entire nation could learn from. Valerie demonstrated the ambition and intelligence needed for success now and in the future. Valerie finished her speech by imploring all of us to strive to put meaning back into the Pledge of Allegiance. I submit the text of her script for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the VFW for sponsoring the "Voice of Democracy" contest and I ask that we recognize Valerie Sandefur for her achievement by striving to do what she has—put meaning back into the Pledge of Allegiance.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"—1998-99 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

(By New Mexico Winner, Valerie Sandefur)

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands . . . and that's about where I forgot. I was in middle school. Actually it was more like the middle of a muddle. But I was not alone. When asked many students couldn't remember these sacred words, and more significantly they, like most of America didn't understand the true meaning of what they recited each morning. I've heard many of my friends ask—what's the point of learning this 'stuff'? For me the answer found is that who we are as a society is based on what they call 'stuff'. What I call history. And the history lesson for today is that we are no longer a nation indivisible, we are increasingly a nation invisible. Therefore, my service to America is to put the meaning back into the pledge of allegiance, and to create again the idea of 'one nation'. However, there are two challenges to regaining our allegiance—apathy and ignorance.

Let us first consider apathy. It is the constitutional right of every citizen over the age of 18 to vote. Yet, in the 1996 presidential elections apathy paralyzed roughly 50% of registered voters. Politicians struggled to recapture the public's fading attention. They failed. As Christopher Hitchens wrote for The Nation magazine it was really a case of the Blind leading the Dumb. Presidential candidates spend \$138 million dollars on a public that in many cases, didn't even care enough to show up. . . .

But it's not just lack of attendance at the polls that demonstrates our growing apathy. The education of our children has become a diluted and narrow stream that too often focuses on the 'real world' of MTV rather than the lessons of the world of the past. Many classrooms no longer have an American flag, and we have stopped teaching the words to the national anthem. In fact at a World Series game this year, Tony Bennett chose not to sing the national anthem. . . . And no one seemed to care. It seems that Mr. Bennett left not only his heart in San Francisco but also his patriotism.

But apathy is not the only challenge to our allegiance, my service to America includes confronting ignorance in myself and others. Consider a recent political cartoon in the Washington Post. The first part of this two-fold cartoon shows a young impressionable child in 1958 wearing a cowboy hat and glasses. He fondly dreams about the famous singing cowboy Roy Rogers, who stood for respect, honesty and goodness, sitting of

course upon his trustworthy horse, Trigger. The second part of this cartoon shows another young and impressionable child in 1998 with a nose-ring and his baseball cap on sideways. In his ignorance, the child of 1998 thinks of Roy Rogers as the fast food chain out east, not as the great American hero. Oh, and when it comes to 'Trigger' all he can think of is the next drive-by shooting.

Now it seems the creator of this cartoon has captured the essence of what makes my service to America so important. For young people like this poster-boy of 1998—nationalism has been replaced by an individualism that is self-indulgent. Too many of my peers remain blissfully ignorant of what their allegiance to America really means. An allegiance that requires an informed electorate. But more and more we are less and less informed. One survey revealed that a 1/3 of all college students firmly believed in ghosts, Atlantis, flying saucers, and yes even Big Foot.

Similarly on a quiz of general knowledge, answers came back saying that the Great Gatsby was a magician in the 1930's, and that Socrates was an American Indian Chieftain.

While this ignorance might seem some what amusing at first, Gertrude Himmelfarb, a writer for Commentary magazine, argues that this society, which is devaluing virtues like ambition, leadership and heroism, is in danger of losing the character of the people and their sense of nationality and spirit of patriotism. But there is still hope for the future . . . and it begins with my service to America. And with your service. And with the service of every American. We are all responsible for reducing the ignorance and apathy that challenge our "nation indivisible". If we are to make the pledge of allegiance meaningful, then we must give full meaning to every word. And that's my service, my pledge of allegiance, my pledge to America. A pledge worth remembering.

FOLIC ACID PROMOTION AND BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with my colleague Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON, am introducing the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999. This bipartisan bill, with 102 Democratic and Republican original cosponsors, is being introduced in the Senate by Senators ABRAHAM, KOHL, and BOND.

The Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999 will provide for a national folic acid education program to prevent birth defects.

Each year an estimated 2,500 babies are born in the United States with serious birth defects of the brain and spine, called neural tube defects. These neural tube defects cause crippling lifelong physical disabilities and at times, even death.

However, up to 70 percent of neural tube defects could be prevented if women of child-bearing age consumed 400 micrograms of folic acid daily. That means women need to eat a healthy diet and take a daily multivitamin. It's that simple.

Women need to be taking folic acid before and during their first trimester of pregnancy because these neural tube defects occur very

early in pregnancy, before most women know that they are pregnant and because roughly 50 percent of all pregnancies in the United States are unplanned.

The problem is that the majority of women are not aware of the benefits of folic acid. A 1997 March of Dimes national survey found that only 30 percent of women take a multivitamin with folic acid before pregnancy. There is an urgent need to teach women about the importance of increasing their consumption of folic acid by taking a daily vitamin pill, eating more fortified cereal grain products, and eating food naturally rich in folic acid.

Nationwide, Hispanic women have the highest rates of neural tube defects. In fact, in my home State of California, Hispanic mothers have the highest number of cases of neural tube defects than any other racial group and Mexican-born mothers have twice the risk of having babies with neural tube defects compared to United States-born mothers.

The Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999 will amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national folic acid education program to prevent birth defects. This bill authorizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with states and local public and private entities, to launch an education and public awareness campaign, conduct research to identify effective strategies for increasing folic acid consumption by women of reproductive capacity, and evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies.

The Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1999 is supported by leading health organization, including the March of Dimes Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners, Council for Responsible Nutrition, American Association of University Affiliated Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Public Health Association, Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals, Easter Seals, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Women's Health Network, and the Spina Bifida Association of America.

I would like to recognize the March of Dimes, the National Council on Folic Acid and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for their leadership and steadfast commitment to this issue. I would especially like to thank Jody Adams and here daughter, the March of Dimes Ambassador Kelsey Adams, for their hard work in publicizing this simple, yet highly effective, prevention strategy.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues, Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON, as well as Senators ABRAHAM, KOHL, and BOND for their hard work in raising awareness about this vitally important issue. By getting the message out, we can help families across the country have healthy babies and save the lives of thousands of babies each year.

RECOGNIZING PELCO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pelco, a world leader in the

design, development and manufacture of advanced closed circuit television systems and supporting equipment.

Pelco has a long prestigious history of offering high quality products and exceptional customer service. Pelco has become the most sought after product supplier in the industry.

Pelco operates from the largest CCTV manufacturing complex in the world. They produce a steady stream of enclosures, domes, mounts, pan/tilt units, matrix systems, and other CCTV electronic products in a never-ending pursuit of achieving 100 percent off-the-shelf-availability for its customers. Pelco is respected as a major product innovator. They manufacture a large number of special equipment item including explosion-proof and water-cooled camera enclosures, high security housing, and a series of award-winning microwave control/video systems. Pelco also produces the industry-acclaimed Legacy and Intercept product lines, each designed around Pelco's revolutionary Coaxitron video/control platform of single coax operation.

Pelco constantly strives to maintain its position as the most reliable supplier of CCTV systems in the industry. The company has established an impressive array of customers service programs including: Guaranteed Ship Dates, 24-hour Technical Assistance and 24-hour Turnaround on Replacement Parts and Repairs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Pelco for their achievements in becoming a world leader in the closed circuit video market. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Pelco many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 1999, I was unavoidably detained at LaGuardia Airport in New York due to poor weather conditions. The weather delays caused me to miss rollcall votes 308, 309, and 310. I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative on all three rollcall votes, numbers 308, 309, and 310.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, once again it is with pride that I rise to pay tribute to the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade, on its eleventh year of celebrating the culture and contributions of the Puerto Rican community to our nation.

The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade will be held on Sunday, August 1 in my South Bronx Congressional District. The event is the culmination of a series of activities surrounding Puerto Rican Week in the Bronx. This year's parade is dedicated to our children.

Under the leadership of its founder, Mr. Angel L. Rosario, and its president, Mr. Francisco Gonzalez, the Parade has grown into

one of the most colorful and important festivals of Puerto Rican culture in the five Boroughs of New York City and beyond.

The Parade brings together people from all ethnic backgrounds, including Puerto Ricans from the island and all across the nation.

It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of thousands of people who will march with pride from Mount Eden to 161st Street along the Grand Concourse in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage. The Puerto Rican flag and other ornaments in the flag's red, white, and blue will decorate the festival.

As one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful that so many people can have this experience, which will change the lives of many of them. There's no better way to see our Bronx community.

The event will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. The Parade ends at 161st and the Grand Concourse, where live music, Puerto Rican food, crafts, and other entertainments await partakers. It is expected that this year's Parade will surpass last year's half-million visitors.

In addition to the parade, the many organizers will provide the community with nearly a week of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Puerto Rican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Puerto Rican culture, which has brought pride to the Bronx community.

HONORING DANIEL T. FLAHERTY OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a friend and constituent, Daniel T. Flaherty. This year Dan Flaherty celebrates his 50th Anniversary as a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin. Dan, a native of West Bend, Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1949. He immediately joined the law firm of Johns, Roraff and Coleman in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. In Dan's early days at the law firm, he worked under contract as an Assistant District Attorney for La Crosse County. Over the years Dan developed a particular expertise doing medical malpractice work for La Crosse's growing medical centers. Today, the law firm that Dan helped build bears his name; Johns, Flaherty and Rice.

Dan was also an active member of the La Crosse community and leader in the State of Wisconsin. Dan, a lifelong environmental activist, was appointed in 1975 to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. He served with distinction on that board until 1981, including a year as Chairman. Dan also served as President of the La Crosse Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Third Congressional District Democratic Party.

Dan has been happily married to his wife Lorraine for fifty-two years. They are the proud

parents of four children and have ten grandchildren.

For fifty years, Dan Flaherty has been an outstanding lawyer, partner and community leader. At a time when there are a growing number of people who are uninterested in or feel disconnected from the democratic process, Dan maintains an active interest in public policy matters at the local, state and national levels. The City of La Crosse and the State of Wisconsin are better places to live because of Dan's wisdom, leadership and community service. It is with great pride and admiration that I rise today before the United States House of Representatives to pay tribute to and congratulate, a friend, a great citizen, and a wonderful person, Daniel T. Flaherty.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE WILLARD MUNGER

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, although liver cancer took him from us at age 88, Willard Munger will not merely go down in history as the longest serving member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Far more importantly, he will be remembered forever as "Mr. Environment."

In 1954, Willard Munger began his career in the Minnesota House where he remained the leading contributor to Minnesota's environmental legislation for four decades. Through his service and dedication to the people of Minnesota, Willard Munger truly exemplified what it means to be a public servant.

Willard Munger's contributions were made through his deep concern for the lives of future generations he will never know. His tireless advocacy for environmental protection, stewardship of our resources, and sustainability was often confrontational and controversial. But this is truly a badge of honor considering the causes he championed. Often his heroic efforts went without any reward whatsoever as he took on powerful vested interests on behalf of the public interest.

It was Willard Munger's vision of ensuring a pristine environment for future generations that fueled his passion. His legacy will endure for years to come, especially for those who have the opportunity to travel the almost 70 miles of biking trails stretching from Duluth to Hinckley, Minnesota, aptly named the "Willard Munger Trail."

As a friend and mentor to me and others, Willard Munger will be missed, but he will never be forgotten. His accomplishments are far too great. His life reminds all of us of the simple truth that anything is possible when one truly stands up for one's beliefs. Thank you, Mr. Environment, for making the world a better place for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall 323, I was engaged in a meeting

with a colleague regarding legislation affecting Colorado, and did not hear the bells in time to be recorded. Had I been able to respond in time, I would have voted "aye."

IRELAND'S INTERESTS WELL REPRESENTED IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, peace may well come soon to Northern Ireland. As intense as the remaining obstacles may be, the closeness of an agreement which leads to an elected Assembly makes us hopeful. But as we fervently pray and work for peace with our counterparts in Belfast, London and Dublin, we must also attend to other American-Ireland business which makes our bonds so strong.

During this time, over the last four years to be exact, those of us in the United States who have been staunch supporters of the peace talks and closer ties between Ireland and the United States recognize well the name of Patrick Hennessy. Mr. Hennessy has served his country as Counsellor at the Irish Embassy in Washington and now has been reassigned, according to the practice of the Irish Foreign Service Department, to Dublin.

Pat Hennessy has done an exemplary job. He is an outstanding and reliable resource. As Chairman of the Friends of Ireland and as Co-chair with Representative BEN GILMAN of New York of the U.S.-Irish Interparliamentary Group, I have come to value Pat's many abilities.

Indeed, the Irish Government's official presence in our country is well represented by the high-caliber professionalism of Pat Hennessy.

His good humor, his intelligence and his love of Ireland—as well as his evident respect for our shared values and aspirations—make him the "diplomat's diplomat."

I will miss Pat's insight and assistance. I am comforted that, being a young man, he will remain in public service and I look forward to a time when we find ourselves working together again.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, due to the wedding of my daughter Leslie, I was not here on Friday, June 25 and subsequently missed rollcall vote No. 256. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On Monday, July 12, a delayed flight from Syracuse to Washington forced me to miss rollcall vote 277, 278 and 279. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" to each of those votes.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE GERSTLE

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the outstanding work of Ms. Irene Gerstle, a teacher at Albuquerque High School in my home of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Recently, Ms. Gerstle received a 1999 Toyota Investment in Mathematics Excellence grant award. Many children in our community and throughout America are falling behind in mathematics skills. Ms. Gerstle sees this problem and looks for solutions. She helps her students to excel in math by teaching them in creative ways. I applaud her commitment to improve mathematics education through the development and implementation of innovative classroom projects. Her hard work and creativity supports students at Albuquerque High gain valuable skills they will need and use in the twenty-first century.

Irene Gerstle is among the many dedicated teachers we have throughout the First Congressional District of New Mexico and the United States. Please join me in thanking Ms. Gerstle for her contributions to our students and our future.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2586, THE
VETERANS BURIAL PLOT AL-
LOWANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT
OF 1999

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 2586, the Veterans Burial Plot Allowance Improvement Act of 1999. My bill would increase the amount of the veterans' plot allowance burial benefit from \$150 to \$300—the first increase of the plot allowance since that benefit was initially authorized over 25 years ago. The proposed increase to \$300 more accurately reflects the current cost of interment and better provides for the original intention of the benefit.

Additionally, my bill would correct an inequity now imposed on peacetime veterans while providing a further incentive to states and their political subdivisions to expand needed burial space for veterans. Under my bill, all veterans who are eligible for burial in a national cemetery would be eligible for a plot allowance payable to a state or a political subdivision of a state when the veteran is buried (without charge for the cost of a plot or interment) in a cemetery or a section of a cemetery owned by the state or political subdivision and that area is used solely for the interment of persons eligible for burial in a national cemetery.

I am proud of America's long-held, solemn commitment to provide a final resting-place of honor for those who have defended her in uniform. I am disappointed, however, that today nearly one-third of United States veterans do not have the option of being buried in a national or state veterans cemetery located within 75 miles of their home—a distance the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs says makes a veterans cemetery "reasonably available". And, I am chagrined that ninety percent of the veterans who are eligible to be buried in a national or state veterans cemetery decline to be buried there. A great many simply feel that those cemeteries are too far away to be a reasonable option for their families.

Unless Congress takes corrective action soon, the problem of scarce burial space for veterans will become more severe over the next decade. VA projects a 42 percent increase in veteran burials from 1995 to 2010, with the annual veteran death rate reaching 620,000 by the year 2008. I was extremely disappointed that—although VA needs five-to-seven years to plan and build a national cemetery—its proposed fiscal year 2000 budget failed to request any funding for even the planning of a single new national cemetery.

On June 29th, the House passed H.R. 2280 that would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish four new national cemeteries and contract for an independent assessment of the number of additional national cemeteries that will be required for the interment of qualified individuals who die after 2005.

Mr. Speaker, as helpful as H.R. 2280 promises to be in fulfilling America's commitment to her veterans, national cemeteries were never intended to be the complete solution. The number of veterans under-served by reasonably available veterans cemeteries is—and will continue to be—far too great and widely distributed to be satisfied entirely by national cemeteries administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The answer, Mr. Speaker, is to expand the national cemetery supplemental system comprised of veterans cemeteries operated by states and their political subdivisions.

In 1978, Congress established the State Cemetery Grants Program for VA to assist states in providing gravesites for veterans in areas where the national cemetery system could not satisfy their burial needs. Grants are used by states to establish, expand, or improve veterans cemeteries they own and operate. Legislation enacted last November authorized VA to provide up to 100 percent of the development cost for an approved project. For new cemeteries, VA now also can provide the operating equipment. States must furnish the land and agree to administer, operate, and maintain the cemetery.

To date, half of the states—to include my home state of Florida, as well as the large veterans population states of Texas and New York—still do not have a state veterans cemetery.

On May 20th, the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, of which I am the Ranking Democrat, conducted a hearing on veterans cemeteries. Veterans organization representatives and State Directors of Veterans Affairs testified that many states do not seek VA grants to establish a veterans cemetery because of their concern for the high perpetual costs of operating them. Witnesses noted that the amount of the plot allowance received by state cemeteries—\$150—has remained unchanged since the benefit was authorized in 1973 and does not come close to covering the state's cost of an interment. Furthermore, states are not able to receive plot allowance payments for veterans unless those veterans had wartime service.

Witnesses estimated that 20 percent of the veterans buried in state veterans cemeteries were peacetime veterans who would have been eligible to be buried in a national cemetery.

To encourage states to apply for a VA state cemetery grant, my legislation would increase the plot allowance to \$300. This amount represents a conservative estimate of the current actual cost to states for the interment of veterans—the original intent of the plot allowance benefit.

My bill also would expand the eligibility criteria for states and their political subdivisions to receive plot allowance payments. A provision that would allow plot allowance payments for all veterans who are eligible for burial in a national cemetery would correct a long-standing inequity for peacetime veterans as well as support the state cemetery grants program. Veterans with peacetime service are not distinguished from veterans with wartime service regarding their burial benefits in a national cemetery. Veterans who elect to be buried in a state cemetery, likewise, should not be subject to differing categories of eligibility for the plot allowance benefit.

A third burial option for veterans—the one that offers a location closest to their residence—is a veterans cemetery owned by an agency or political subdivision of a state. Local cemeteries owned by a county or city are authorized to receive the veteran's plot allowance if the veterans is buried without charge for the cost of a plot or interment in a section that is used solely for the interment of persons eligible for burial in a national cemetery. Like state veterans cemeteries, these local, government-owned cemeteries are limited to plot allowances for veterans with wartime service.

Witnesses at my Subcommittee's recent hearing testified that they believed that if the amount of the plot allowance benefit were increased to a sum more closely approximating the actual cost of interment, and if the eligibility criteria for receipt of the plot allowance by cemeteries owned by a political subdivision of a state were expanded to include peacetime veterans who were eligible for burial in a national cemetery, that those community cemeteries would be encouraged to establish or expand special sections for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that Congress reaffirm this Nation's commitment to provide an appropriate resting-place of honor for its veterans. My legislation would provide states and their political subdivisions with the incentive to expand the necessary supplement to our national cemetery system so that America might properly memorialize the sacrifices her veterans have made to keep this Nation free. I urge my colleagues to support their veterans through the support of my solution to this bipartisan issue.

CONDEMNING INTERNATIONAL
PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to condemn the continuing crisis of international parental child abduction. Six years ago, in the 103rd Congress, in response to an instance of

international child abduction in my home State of Pennsylvania, I formulated legislation which created punitive measures to respond to these crimes. I had hoped that when we passed that measure, now Public Law 103-173, the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993, that tragic instances of child abduction would be halted. Unfortunately, I was wrong.

Imagine that your former spouse—who does not have custodial rights of your children—comes to your home and picks up your kids for a weekly visit. Then imagine that you discover your spouse has taken your children to a foreign country, and you have little recourse in getting your children back. Sadly, this happens more than 1,000 times each year.

Prior to passage of this legislation, there was no Federal law that addressed this heinous crime. Now, this law provides both deterrence and prevention. For anyone convicted of unlawfully kidnapping their child and taking him or her overseas, a one- to three-year jail term and stiff fines can be expected. In addition, this legislation established educational programs for judges and others involved in custody proceedings that continue to serve as preventive measures. By passing that law, Congress for the first time put the weight of Federal law behind our desire that children never be taken away from a loving parent.

Yesterday the House of Representatives debated and passed the Gibbons amendment to H.R. 2415, the American Embassy Security Act. Representative GIBBONS, like myself six years ago, has diligently worked with the State Department in order to find a resolution to this same problem that plagues families across the country. His amendment helps prevent international child abduction by ensuring that in order for a child to be issued a passport, certain requirements must be met by her/his legal guardians.

I applaud the efforts of Representative GIBBONS and I wholly support his amendment. As Members of Congress, we should do all we can to end the nightmare of international parental child abductions.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH E. BEASLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL #66

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor my longtime friend, Mr. Joseph E. Beasley. On June 30th, Mr. Beasley retired from the International Union of Operating Engineers, bringing to a close a career that spanned five decades.

After serving his country in the military, Mr. Beasley joined the work force in Pittsburgh. Soon after, he joined the Union and began what would become a 49 year association with the Operating Engineers. Mr. Beasley served in a wide variety of capacities during this tenure, distinguishing himself through dedication and hard work.

Mr. Beasley's career began with his election to the position of Financial Secretary for the Local Union in 1972. He held this position until his 1981 election to Business Manager, a seat

he held until his retirement. In addition, Mr. Beasley served as Vice-President of the Pittsburgh Building Trades Counsel and Chairman of the Local 66 Pension and Annuity and Welfare Funds.

In addition to his work on the local level, Mr. Beasley also served as an International Trustee and the eleventh General Vice President of the International Union of Operating Engineers. Most recently, he served as the Vice-President of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and as Secretary Treasurer of the Northeastern States Conference of Operating engineers.

Mr. Beasley's accomplishments throughout his career have gained him the respect and admiration of his colleagues. He has proven himself a great asset to not only the state of Pennsylvania but also hard working men and women across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Beasley for all his efforts throughout his nearly fifty year career. I wish him the best in his much deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was regretfully absent and missed rollcall vote No. 327 on July 21, 1999. The vote was on the Bilbray amendment to H.R. 2415, the American Embassy Security Act. I include in the RECORD that I would have voted "aye" had I been present.

MILITARY RECRUITMENT THROUGH EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS TO AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, we know that today our armed forces are facing serious shortfalls in recruitment. Already, these shortfalls are having a dangerous impact on our Nation's military readiness. We will have all the best tools, and no one to fight the war. In part, the problem may be caused by a blessing: America's flourishing economy, which leads our young people to enter a booming job market rather than the rigors of military service. Therefore, it is essential for our national security that our government do all it can to support our armed forces in effectively communicating to young people of recruitment age the advantages and benefits of service.

Honor, patriotism, and the desire for adventure still engage and motivate America's young men and women. America's armed forces offer the opportunity to be part of something meaningful, to learn self-discipline and sacrifice. For many idealistic young people, that offers them an experience unmatched elsewhere. So we have to get the message out about what service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines means to their country, and what opportunities such service entails. And we must recognize that in today's world,

we are competing with some of the most effective marketing and recruitment techniques ever devised by U.S. companies, which quite reasonably want to catch as many of the best and the brightest as they can for themselves.

Therefore, it is essential that we convey our message by the most effective means possible, employing language and images engaging to young Americans of recruitment age. Programming messages by the U.S. Navy have scored significant recruiting success in recent months, partially reversing the downward trend of Navy recruitment. Programming directed toward high school students for post-graduation enlistment can be particularly well targeted and unusually effective means of increasing awareness of the military service option and positive attitudes towards it. As a result of this exposure, students in the Channel One schools are more likely to consider enlisting.

Mr. Speaker, the use of innovative methods to educate and encourage young people about the benefits of service to their country is essential in today's marketplace. Our national security demands such an effort. At the same time, service in the United States military truly provides young Americans with an opportunity to gain by giving to their country. I intend to work hard to ensure that our government expands its support for our armed forces' efforts in this direction.

CONGRATULATING THE SULPHUR ALL STAR BASEBALL TEAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like for my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the 8-year-old Sulphur All Star Baseball Team which has earned a trip to play in the Little League World Series this July 22-25.

The Sulphur All Stars have won their last three tournaments to reach this point. In the process, the All Stars placed 2nd in the State of Louisiana and was also awarded a trophy for the "Best Defensive Team." Mr. Speaker, we are extremely proud of these young men and I wanted to briefly recognize the players and coaches at this time. The All Star players are Brady Landry, Tyler Kuykendall, Jon Thomas Chargois, Jeremy Abshire, Sha Hale, Charlie LaBoeuf, Phillip Ivey, Keith Lemelle, Jonathon LeBlanc, Mackenzie McGuane, Corbett Reed, Evan Harris, Kade Guillory, and Jacob Theriot. The All Star coaches are Terry Kuykendall, Eugene LeBlanc, Von Chargois, Mike Evans, Len Lemelle, Shannon Theriot, Buckie LeBoeuf, Jamie Guillory, Jim McGuane, and Don Hale.

I want to wish the Sulphur All Stars all the best in the World Series and I will be rooting for them from Washington!

PRIVATIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, remember that old excuse "the check is in the mail"? In the

"old days," this excuse could be used more easily than today, when the myriad of electronic options makes sending a check a nearly instantaneous procedure. In fact, they are not even called "checks" anymore, but are called electronic financial transfers. With the telecommunications, computer and information technology revolution, there are a variety of options to get a document or payment from one place to another. As we use these advancements more and more in everyday life, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is losing steam, and its revenues are being greatly affected. Some even wonder if the Postal Service will become to the 21st Century what the horse-drawn carriage was to the 20th Century.

The federal government itself is taking advantage of these developments and using electronic means to do much of its business. For example, this year, millions of Americans paid their taxes and received refunds through electronic financial transfers. Many Social Security beneficiaries also receive their payments in the same manner—an electronic deposit into their bank accounts, thereby eliminating the role of the Postal Service. And, the federal government is saving taxpayer dollars by operating in this way. It costs approximately 43 cents to send a payment by check versus 2 cents to send funds electronically. Thus, fundamental change is necessary to enable the USPS to adapt and compete in this rapidly changing world.

The USPS has conceded that they do not operate in a legislative framework that allows them to be responsive in adapting to these changes in technology and to competition with these new services. In a 1995 speech, former Postmaster General Marvin Runyon said that USPS is losing a lot of its financial and business mail due to such technological changes, which has created competition from e-mail, electronic financial transfers, fax machines, and the Internet.

Mr. Speaker, as you will agree, the vast majority of USPS employees are hard-working people who want to deliver their product in the fastest, most efficient way possible. For the most part, the problem is not with the employees of USPS—it is with the legislative mechanism that limits their ability to do their job effectively. First, the Postal Service has an absolute monopoly over first-class mail—there is no competition and thus no motivation to improve service. Also, the federal government subsidizes USPS. Thus, it has no real motivation to improve service. Also, the federal government subsidizes USPS. Thus, it has no real motivation to be in the black at the end of the year because it can borrow from the Federal Treasury when necessary. The Postal Service does not have to pay taxes, and therefore has no real incentive to improve its efficiency. In total, USPS has no motivation to become more productive and efficient because it will continue to operate due to its subsidy and a lack of competition.

For these reasons, I am reintroducing legislation to convert USPS into a totally private corporation, owned by its employees. This legislation calls for this transition to be implemented over a five-year period, after which the current monopoly over first-class mail would end. To make sure USPS has a fair chance at succeeding as a private corporation, my legislation allows for the cost-free transfer of assets currently held by USPS to the private corporation. Consequently, USPS would have an

enormous infrastructure to start with that they are already familiar with, and the ability to create new products and services to make it competitive with other corporations providing services it can only dream of challenging today. To increase the motivation of employees to work hard and make USPS competitive, the employees would own the corporation, making their earnings contingent on the amount of work they put in.

In past Congresses when I have introduced this legislation, I have been opposed by those who believe that privatization would result in the Postal Service being chased out of all metropolitan markets, leaving it with troublesome rural areas to service. With changes in technology occurring everyday, the USPS is more likely to be left with rural and bulk mail if it remains in its current government-subsidized form, than if it privatizes and has plenty of options to respond to the technology revolution.

For these reasons, I hope the employees of USPS will carefully consider this proposal and recognize its merits, as they stand the most to gain with privatization. I continue to hope that my colleagues in the House of Representatives might join me in this effort to privatize the USPS so that it will be a responsive, efficient service for all Americans to use in the years to come.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MARGARET ROACH

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, the South Florida community has lost a truly great leader. I am saddened that Margaret Blake Roach passed away at the age of 88 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on July 16, 1999. We mourn the loss of a woman whose legacy will undoubtedly be remembered for years to come.

Margaret Roach was at the forefront of the social justice movement in Broward County for three decades. Well known as the founder and president emeritus of the Urban League of Broward County, Margaret was also the founding member of the Broward/South Palm Beach region of the National Conference for Community and Justice, formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Her leadership was instrumental in the fight for social equality throughout South Florida and, indeed, the entire state of Florida as well.

During her 24 years as an administrator in Broward County Schools and a trustee and former chairperson of the board of trustees in Broward County Schools and a trustee and former chairperson of the board of trustees at Broward Community College, Margaret Roach was very active in various civic matters. Though she retired from the school district in 1975, Margaret continued to work on behalf of children nationwide. She played significant roles in the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and the Cleveland Clinic. It truly seems that there was no organization that worked for the greater good in Broward County in which Margaret Roach did not play a role.

Mr. Speaker, while Margaret Roach's passing is a tremendous loss for the South Florida community, I can say without hesitation that

her memory lives on through the work of the many organizations to which she dedicated her life. Margaret was an extraordinary human being who went above and beyond what she needed to be, because of her sincere desire to help others. For the thousands of lives she has touched, I thank and praise Margaret Blake Roach for her hard work, her leadership, and her compassion for others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, on rollcall 310, I inadvertently voted "no." I intended to be recorded as "yes."

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Religious Liberty Protection Act.

First let me commend the gentleman from Florida, Mr. CANADY. As chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. CANADY has established himself as a stalwart in defending the Constitution and our precious right to the free exercise of the religious freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, let us not forget, let us always be mindful, that the very first freedom guaranteed by our forefathers in the Bill of Rights was the right to freely exercise our religious beliefs. When we study history, we quickly recognize that this is neither coincidence nor accident that our forefathers enumerated this as the first constitutional right, for they came to this country seeking the right to freely exercise their religious beliefs. Since our first forefathers arrived on our shores until very recently this freedom has been unquestioned. Today, Americans are united on few things but we almost uniformly agree that our religious liberties should be cherished and protected.

However, sadly, in 1990 the Supreme Court, created by the very Constitution which guarantees our right to religious freedom, began, hopefully unwittingly, what constitutes as no less than an assault on this freedom. Is it not inconceivable that, of all things, of all institutions, our Supreme Court has been at the forefront of denying Americans this cherished right? They did so, in a 5-4 decision, by repealing a long-established legal principle which required the government to prove a compelling state interest before restricting religious liberty. Within a year following this unfortunate decision, Catholic prisoners were denied access to priests or their confessionals were monitored, Jewish prisoners were denied the right to wear yarmulkes, and a Christian church right here in Washington, DC, was ordered to stop feeding the homeless. Congress quickly responded to this breach of protection created by the Supreme Court, and with only three dissenting votes, passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act which restored the historic compelling state interest test. It was

quickly signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court rules this act unconstitutional. I respect the Supreme Court, both the institution and its members. Sadly, their decision, in my opinion, neither respected the jurisdiction that the Constitution conveys to the Congress nor preserved the checks and balances of the Constitution. In a display of legalism which escapes this Member's understanding and to this Member defies common sense, they stated that Congress had the power to enforce the constitutional rights protected by the 14th Amendment, the amendment on which the 1993 act was based, but not the right to "expand them." It is hard to imagine that Congress' pronouncement stating that the first freedom in the Constitution, the free exercise of our religious beliefs which was the catalyst for the very founding of our country should not be swept away without a compelling state interest was somehow an "expansion" of our religious liberties. If a constitutional right can be taken away without compelling reason, on a whim, or with a minimum of justification, it is not in any way a well protected right.

Additionally, it is difficult to imagine that Congress' attempt to protect the first right delineated in the Constitution is somehow prohibited by the Constitution. Not only is it unimaginable, it is unacceptable. For that reason, this Congress, this day, representing the people of this country, must again act to protect the precious religious freedoms and liberties of those we represent. To do otherwise would allow the Supreme Court, in what this Member perceives to be an arbitrary decision, to set itself up as the sole arbitrator, determinant and protector of our constitutional rights. The basis of our constitutional rights is not the Supreme Court; it is the Constitution. I, for one, firmly believe that the Constitution also gave this body, as the elected representatives of the people, a right, and further an obligation, to protect our constitutional freedoms.

Certainly, is not the right and the obligation to protect our first freedom the right and obligation of all three branches of government? I will never accept the premise, nor should this Congress, that only the Supreme Court is vested with this right and this power. To do so would basically give the Supreme Court alone the power to restrict the very precious rights encompassed in our Constitution without any check or balance. To do so would also surrender our obligation to defend the Constitution, an obligation we swear to uphold upon our election. To defend the Constitution should be our first obligation, not someone else's obligation.

Our forefathers in their wisdom did not give to the Supreme Court alone the power to protect our Constitutional rights and freedoms. They, in fact, gave this obligation and responsibility to all three branches of government. It is not a duty that we should constitutionally avoid. Let us not dodge or shirk this solemn responsibility today. Let us instead, not with three dissenting votes, but unanimously pass the Religious Liberty Protection Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, the following is a list of votes that I missed because I had to return to Michigan due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 281—McGovern amendment—"yes."

Rollcall No. 282—Sanders amendment—"yes."

Rollcall No. 283—Coburn amendment—"yes."

Rollcall No. 284—Sanders amendment—"yes."

Rollcall No. 285—Sanders amendment—"yes."

Rollcall No. 286—Slaughter amendment—"yes."

Rollcall No. 287—Stearns amendment—"no."

Rollcall No. 288—Rahall—"yes."

Rollcall No. 300—Previous question on H. Res. 246, rule on H.R. 2490, Treasury Postal—"no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family commitment I was unable to cast House votes 301–305 on July 15th, 1999 and House vote 306 on July 16th, 1999.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
PARITY ACT OF 1999**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleagues to introduce the National Mental Health Parity Act of 1999. The goal of this legislation is to provide parity in insurance coverage of mental illness and improve mental health services available to Medicare beneficiaries. This legislation will end the systematic discrimination against those with mental illness and reflect the many improvements in mental health treatment.

My legislation would prohibit health plans from imposing treatment limitations or financial requirements on coverage of mental illness, if they do not have similar limitations or requirements for the coverage of other health conditions. The bill also expands Medicare mental health and substance abuse benefits to include a wider array of settings in which services may be delivered. Specifically, the legislation would eliminate the current bias in the law toward delivering services in general hospitals by allowing patients to receive treatment in a variety of residential and community-based settings. This transition saves money for the simple reason that community-based services

are far less expensive than hospital services. In addition, community-based providers can better meet the patient's personal needs.

Providing access to mental health treatment offers many benefits because of the significant social costs resulting from mental health and substance abuse disorders. Treatable mental and addictive disorders exact enormous social and economic costs, individual suffering, breakup of families, suicide, crime, violence, homelessness, impaired performance at work and partial or total disability. Recent estimates indicate that mental and addictive disorders cost the economy well over \$300 billion annually. This includes productivity losses of \$150 billion, health care costs of \$70 billion and other costs (e.g. criminal justice) of \$80 billion.

Two to three percent of the population experience severe mental illness disorders. As many as 25 percent suffer from milder forms of mental illness, and approximately one out of ten Americans suffers from alcohol abuse. One out of thirty Americans suffer from drug abuse.

Alcohol and drug dependence is not the result of a weak will or a poor character. In many cases, the dependence results from chemical abnormalities in the person's brain that makes them prone to dependence. In other cases, the dependence represents a reaction to unhealthy social and environmental conditions that perpetuate abuse of alcohol and drugs. Regardless of the cause of the abuse, alcohol and drug abuse can be treated and allow the person to live a normal and productive life.

Mental health disorders are like other health disorders. With appropriate treatment, some mental health problems can be resolved. Other mental health conditions, like physical health conditions can persist for decades. Indeed, there are those who battle mental illness their entire life just as there are those who suffer from diabetes, congenital birth defects, or long-term conditions like multiple sclerosis. Whereas insurance policies cover the chronic health problems, they do not offer the same support for mental health conditions.

During the last 104th Congressional session, parity in the treatment of mental illness was a widely and hotly debated issue. Although parity legislation was finally developed, insurance carriers found gaping loopholes and created mental health insurance policies that provide less access to mental health services. Furthermore, the current parity legislation includes many exemptions in coverage requirements for small employers. If an employer has at least 2 but not more than 50 employees, they can be exempt from the coverage requirement. Finally, if a group health plan experiences an increase in costs of at least 1 percent, they can be exempted in subsequent years. We can and must do more for our constituents.

My proposed legislation addresses two fundamental problems in both public and private health care coverage of mental illness. First, despite the prevalence and cost of untreated mental illness, we still lack full parity for treatment. The availability of treatment, as well as the limits imposed, are linked to coverage for all medical and surgical benefits. Whatever limitations exist for those benefits will also apply to mental health benefits.

Let us not forget the small employers either. If a company qualifies for the small employer exemption, the insurance companies will be

able to set different, lower limits on the scope and duration of care for mental illness compared to other illnesses. This means that people suffering from depression may get less care and coverage than those suffering a heart attack. This disparity is indefensible.

Access to equitable mental health treatment is essential and can be offered at a reasonable price. Recent estimates indicate that true parity for mental health services will increase insurance rates by a mere one percent, a trivial price to pay for the well being of all Americans.

Second, the diagnoses and treatment of mental illness and substance abuse has changed dramatically since the start of Medicare. Treatment options are no longer limited to large public psychiatric hospitals. The great majority of people receive treatment on an outpatient basis, recover quickly, and return to productive lives. Even those who once would have been banished to the back wards of large institutions can now live successfully in the community. Unfortunately, the current Medicare benefit package does not reflect the many changes that have occurred in mental health care. This bill would permit Medicare to pay for a number of intensive community-based services. These services are far less expensive than inpatient hospitalization.

For those who cannot be treated while living in their own homes, this bill would make several residential treatment alternatives available. These alternatives include residential detoxification centers, crisis residential programs, therapeutic family or group treatment homes and residential centers for substance abuse. Clinicians will no longer be limited to sending their patients to inpatient hospitals. Treatment can be provided in the specialized setting best suited to addressing the person's specific problem.

Currently there is a 190-day lifetime limit for psychiatric hospital treatment. This limit was originally established primarily in order to contain costs. In fact, CBO estimates that under modern treatment methods, only about 1.6% of Medicare enrollees hospitalized for mental disorders or substance abuse used more than 190 days of service over a five year period.

Under the provisions of this bill, beneficiaries who need inpatient hospitalization would be admitted to the type of hospital that can best provide treatment for his or her needs.

Inpatient hospitalization would be covered for up to 60 days per year. The average length of hospital stay for mental illness in 1995 for all populations was 11.5 days. Adolescents averaged 12.2 days; 14.6 for children; 16.6 days for older adolescents; 8.6 days for the aged and disabled; 9.9 days for adults. A stay of 30 days or fewer is found in 93.5% of the cases. The 60-day limit, therefore, would adequately cover inpatient hospitalization for the vast majority of Medicare beneficiaries, while still providing some modest cost containment. Restructuring the benefit in this manner will level the playing field for psychiatric and general hospitals.

In summary, my legislation is an important step toward providing comprehensive coverage for mental health. Further leveling the health care coverage playing field to include mental illness and timely treatment in appropriate settings will lessen health care costs in the long run. These provisions will also lessen the social costs of crime, welfare, and lost pro-

ductivity to society. This bill will assure that the mental health needs of all Americans are no longer ignored. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

MISS MARTHA DAVIS

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, if you spend much time examining popular television shows, magazines, and music nowadays, you'll very quickly reach the conclusion that our society is obsessed with youth. In many ways, it is good to see greater concern about hanging on the health, energy and optimism that go along with being young. However, we will be making a grave mistake as a society if we over-value youth at the expense of rejecting the wisdom, common sense, and experience our senior citizens acquire over a lifetime.

Nowhere is this principle more evident than in the life of Miss Martha Davis. Miss Martha, as she is known to her students, earned her college diploma at Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia. After graduating, she returned to her hometown of Cave Spring, Georgia, where she held a job as a teacher for the next four and a half decades. In the process she helped shape the lives of her students, many of whom still visit and spend time with her on a regular basis.

Miss Martha's own words are perhaps the most appropriate way to describe the outlook that has served her so well. She says, "There's three things: God is first, then people, then yourself. I try to live by that. Making people happy and helping them—those things have made me happier than anything else."

This month, Miss Martha, who lives in Cave Spring, will turn 100. On July 31st, her former students have planned a celebration for her on the front lawn of her home. It is with great pride that I join all of those whose lives she has touched in wishing this great teacher and outstanding citizen a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING LT. COL. CHARLES A. HAMILTON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a gentleman who has given much in the name of national service, and protecting our citizens. On Friday, July 23, the men and women of the United States Air Force 16th Operations Group and the 16th Special Operations Squadron, located at Hurlburt Field, Florida, will gather to witness the relinquishment of command by Lt. Col. Mark P. Transue, and the assumption of command by Lt. Col. Charles A. Hamilton.

Born in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, Lt. Col. Charles Hamilton lived there until he was 18, and then entered the Air Force Academy. He graduated with a degree in Economics from the Academy and was commissioned on

May 28, 1980. He was stationed at Reese Air Force Base in Texas from August 1980 to March 1985, where he was a student as well as instructor of new pilots. From there he went on to bases in New Mexico, Japan, Florida, and in January 1994, moved to the Pentagon, where he served as Operations Branch Chief, and Deputy Chief of the Special Operations Division, Directorate of Operations and Training, Deputate of Operations and Plans.

Lt. Col. Hamilton remained at the Pentagon until August of 1997, where he was then returned to Hurlburt Field as an Instructor Pilot until August 1998, where he was then assigned to his current position of Operations Officer.

The 16th Special Operations Squadron has committed themselves to support unified and theater special operations commands, through the implementation of night, close air support, armed reconnaissance, and interdiction missions in support of National Command Authorities taskings. The 16 SOS is one of only two squadrons utilizing the AC-130 Gunship, an aircraft which was an important part in such exercises as Operations Just Cause, Desert Storm, and United Shield, among others. They have been honored with numerous commendations, including Two Presidential Unit Citations, four Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

Mr. Speaker, I am exceptionally proud to represent a person like Lt. Col. Charles Hamilton in Congress. The task he prepared to undertake, to take command of one of the Air Force's premier squadrons, is one of great responsibility which I am certain he will handle with the utmost maturity and sense of duty. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating Lt. Col. Hamilton and sending him the best of wishes.

HONORING STATE SENATOR MARK HILLMAN, REPRESENTATIVE BRAD YOUNG, AND THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, Colorado State Senator Mark Hillman and State Representative Brad Young have advanced a Resolution in the Colorado General assembly important to the debate we are about to engage about tax relief. Adopted this year by the Colorado General Assembly, Senate Joint Memorial 99-004 urges us to repeal the Federal Unified gift and estate tax.

Mr. Speaker, one of our colleagues has observed that only with our government are you given a certificate at birth, a license at marriage, and a bill at death. One of the most compelling aspects of the American dream is to make life better for our children and loved ones. Yet, the current tax treatment of a person's life savings is so onerous that when one dies, the children are often forced to turn over half of their inheritance to the Federal Government. The estate tax is imposed at an alarming 37 to 55 percent rate. This is higher than in any other industrialized nation in the world except Japan. Even worse, not only does this take place at an agonizing time for the family,

but they also have to watch their loved one's legacy be snatched up by the federal government—an entity not known for great wisdom in spending money. This is as wrong as it is tragic. And it dishonors the hard work of those who have passed on.

The purpose of the estate tax, or "death tax" as many call it, has evolved over time. It has been enacted three other times in our Nation's history as a way to help fund wars—the naval war with France in 1797, the Civil War in 1862, the Spanish American War in 1898, and World War I. Although it was repealed within 6 years in each of the first three instances, in 1916 the Federal Government put its hand in the pocket of Americans to fund WWI and never took it out. Over time, the tax began to reflect political philosophy as liberal politicians sought to break up what they perceived to be the concentration of wealth in society by heavily taxing estates. It has become less of a tax on wealth, however, and more of a tax on the accumulation of wealth of those who are trying to get ahead and save for the future.

It is the small businesses and family farms that are particularly vulnerable to the death tax. Asset rich and cash poor, these enterprises do not have the liquid resources to settle a tax bill of up to 55 percent with the Federal Government. Their only option is to sell some or all of the land or business, thereby diminishing the asset generating the wealth for that family.

Today, less than half of all family-owned businesses survive the death of a founder and only about 5 percent survive to the third generation according to the Life Insurance Marketing Research Association. Under current tax law, it is cheaper for an individual to sell the business prior to death and pay the individual capital gains rate than pass it on to heirs. This is terrible public policy.

The amount of money spent complying with, or trying to circumvent, the death tax is astronomical. Congress' Joint Economic Committee reported that the death tax brings in \$23 billion in annual revenue, but costs the private sector another \$23 billion in compliance costs. Therefore, the total impact on the economy is a staggering \$46 billion. When one calculates the amount of money spent on complying with the tax, the number of lost jobs resulting from businesses being sold, or the resources directed away from business expansion and into estate planning, it is no wonder that a grandswell has formed to eliminate this punitive tax that constitutes only 1.4 percent of all federal revenues.

Congress has attempted to help ease the burden of the death tax by increasing the personal exemption—which now stands at \$650,000—to adjust for the inflation of assets. Unfortunately, this will continue to be too little help as home values, the increasing popularity of defined contribution retirement plans, and the trend toward more small business entrepreneurship drives middle-income people above the exemption. If you calculated the personal exemption that existed under Franklin Roosevelt's administration in today's dollars, it comes out to \$9 million.

In particular, Congress has tried to help small businesses by creating an additional death tax exemption for family-owned businesses. Here too, however, is where good theory becomes impractical in the real world. The family-owned business exemption en-

acted as part of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 creates 14 new definitions with which a business must comply before it is eligible for relief. Although a good idea at the time, this exemption has proven to be nothing more than a boondoggle for attorneys and estate planners who are hired by families trying to navigate their way through these eligibility hoops.

The Death Tax Elimination Act (H.R. 8) is the right answer at the right time. The productivity of enterprising Americans and a Republican-led Congress intent on reducing wasteful spending has helped to produce the first budget surplus in a generation. What will be Congress's response to this surplus? Will it spend the money on dozens of government programs that could no doubt be created or expanded? Or, will it cobble together a complicated tax plan that aims to help everybody and, therefore, helps almost no one? We must provide the American people with fairness in our tax system so that individuals who save and invest for their children and grandchildren's future will no longer be punished.

Restoring fairness to our tax system must center around two main principles: the non-Social Security surplus belongs to the American people and it ought to be returned to them; and we must preserve the foundations on which strong communities are built. I can think of no better idea that fulfills both these principles than repeal of the death tax. The ingredients to a successful family or business—savings, investment, and hard work—must be once again rewarded, not taxed.

Mr. Speaker I commend the effort of Senator Hillman, Representative Young, and the Colorado General Assembly. They remind us that the impact of our decisions here will be surely felt in Colorado and everywhere in America. I hereby submit for the RECORD Colorado's Senate Joint Memorial 99-004.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 99-004

Whereas, The Federal Unified Gift and Estate Tax, or "Death Tax" generates a minimal amount of federal revenue, especially considering the high cost of collection and compliance and in fact has been shown to decrease federal revenues from what they might otherwise have been; and

Whereas, This federal Death Tax has been identified as destructive to job opportunity and expansion, especially to minority entrepreneurs and family farmers; and

Whereas, This federal Death Tax causes severe hardship to growing family businesses and family farming operations, often to the point of partial or complete force liquidation; and

Whereas, Critical state and local leadership assets are unnecessarily destroyed and forever lost to the future detriment of their communities through relocation or liquidation; and

Whereas, Local and state schools, churches, and numerous charitable organizations would greatly benefit from the increased employment and continued family business leadership that would result from the repeal of the federal Death Tax: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That the Congress of the United States is hereby memorialized to immediately repeal the Federal Unified Gift and Estate Tax; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States

House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each member of the Colorado congressional delegation.

DESIGNATING THE CHESTNUT-GIBSON MEMORIAL DOOR

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, one year ago this Friday, the Capitol Building was shaken by a maniacal and senseless shooting spree. This day reminds us once again that the risk is always present for those we ask to defend this free society. The vagaries of life are such that there are those, either demented or angry or for whatever reasons, that take unto themselves the opportunity to commit violence.

We lost Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson so that many others might be safe and to indicate that the Capitol of the United States, freedom's house, will not only be accessible, but also protected.

This past May we rededicated the Capitol Police headquarters in honor of Officer Chestnut, Detective Gibson, and Officer Christopher Eney, the first Capitol Police officer killed in the line of duty during a training accident in 1984. This resolution complements the renaming of the headquarters building. Henceforth, every tourist, staffer, Member or head of state that uses the "memorial door" will remember the public service of these three men and the ultimate sacrifices that each of them made.

While this resolution renaming the document door specifically honors Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, the memorial door is a tribute to all of the men and women of law enforcement who leave their homes each day and take to their duties to defend America's principles, to defend Americans, and to defend an orderly society.

Just down the street from this building stands the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Since last year's tragedy, the names of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson have been added to a long list of fallen officers including their colleague, Officer Eney, and others from departments around the Nation.

In the last year we have taken some very positive steps in insuring that this type of incident does not happen again. While we can never guarantee that there is not another shooting, the security enhancement plan is an important step in the right direction. With additional officers, acquisition of new equipment, and a restructuring of the department, we can work to decrease the chances of another shooting while retaining the accessibility that the American public and the World over have come to know.

Let us not forget the ultimate sacrifice that these two brave officers made. I thank my colleague Representative DELAY, for bringing forward this resolution and I urge my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson on this solemn one-year anniversary by passing this resolution.

IN HONOR OF DOROTHY EPSTEIN

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothy Epstein, a dedicated community activist. We here in Congress have spent a lot of time talking about Social Security and ensuring that our seniors have the ability to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives. Mrs. Epstein has gone beyond the rhetoric by spending her time relentlessly promoting activism and leadership among older adults so that they, through their own efforts, can secure and protect their future. She played an essential role in creating the Institute for Senior Action, a leadership training program for seniors at the Join Public Affairs Committee (JPAC) for Older Adults in New York. She has served on the JPAC Advisory Committee since 1993 and has used her wisdom to guide that body. These efforts demonstrate Mrs. Epstein's tireless commitment to the cause of senior advocacy: after all, she accomplished all this after retiring at the age of 76.

But this is just another in the long list of Mrs. Epstein's accomplishments, a list which begins at her very first job: organizing unions with the New York City relief bureau. She also served as a chapter president at the Association of Workers in Public Relief Agencies, where she continued to work to prevent discrimination in the workplace and layoffs for civil service workers. Her efforts with these organizations laid the groundwork for what would become the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. After her great achievements in the public sector, Mrs. Epstein decided to try her hand in the private sector by founding Synergy, a vitamin company. Like all of her efforts, it was a great success.

It was after her retirement from Synergy that she began her extraordinary association with JPAC. Mrs. Epstein was eager to use her experience and vision to confront the issues facing older adults. It did not take long for her to make a big impact, and only a little more than a year after she joined the Advisory Committee, the Institute for Senior Action was born. Under her guidance, the Institute, which graduated its 10th class this year, has pursued vital issues such as the protection of health care, income maintenance, and other social services. The intense, all-day classes stress confidence, cooperation, and help everyone from recent retirees to older seniors get involved in social action. Through the Institute, Mrs. Epstein has been able to spread her energy and dedication to seniors of all backgrounds, who have then been able to make a difference in their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, whether she was organizing unions, fighting discrimination, or educating seniors, Mrs. Dorothy Epstein has dedicated her life to empowering people. So, even though she is pulling back from the day-to-day work at the Institute, the ripple of hope that she created with her life's work will continue to grow and expand, changing more and more lives along the way. It is for this ongoing contribution that I honor her today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical evaluation on Tuesday, July 20, 1999, I was absent for rollcall votes 311–315. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 311—"Yes";
Rollcall No. 312—"No";
Rollcall No. 313—"No";
Rollcall No. 314—"No";
Rollcall No. 315—"No".

THOMAS MAKAR OF CLEVELAND,
OHIO ATTAINS EAGLE SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Makar of Cleveland, Ohio, who will be honored August 21, 1999 for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest honor in which a Scout can earn. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, twelve of which are required. The merit badges an Eagle Scout must earn range from First Aid to Camping to Citizenship of the Community, Nation, and the World. Additionally, each Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project that benefits the community in which he must plan, finance, and execute. Furthermore, an Eagle Scout must hold a variety of leadership positions in which he learns important life skills. Thomas has accomplished this and more.

Thomas has proved himself as an exceptional young man who lives by the Scout Law; Scout Oath; Scout Promise; and Scout Motto. Thomas is also the first second-generation Eagle Scout in his troop history, and this is a tribute to the entire Makar family.

I ask you to please join me in recognizing and congratulating Thomas for his achievement.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. RODOLFO
DIAZ-PONS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lt. Col. Rodolfo Diaz-Pons, who is retiring after 22 years of military service and 4 years at Central Michigan University as a professor and chair of the military science department.

I would like to commend Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons for his service to his country and congratulate him on his retirement on August 31. Since beginning his career in 1977 after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York, he has served several leadership positions in the United States and in Germany.

While at Fort Carson, CO, Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons held positions as commander of an "A

Team" and served as group plans officer in the 10th Special Forces Group Airborne. Following his completion of the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, he served as rifle and headquarters company commander in the 4th Battalion 8th Infantry. During his time in Germany, he served as the battalion operations officer to the 1st Battalion 39th Infantry.

Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons entered into service because he wanted to develop his leadership abilities. He has achieved this goal. As he begins his retirement, he continues to advance his leadership skills and volunteer in his community. He will serve as full-time pastor of Riverbend Baptist Church in St. Louis, MI, where he was previously serving as volunteer pastor.

On behalf of the residents of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to recognize Lt. Col. Diaz-Pons today and wish him the best as he begins his new journey. His school, community and nation are grateful to him.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY
ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Goodling amendment.

India is one of our most valuable allies. The oldest democracy and the largest democracy share many things in common. India is moving forward with free-market reforms that offer tremendous opportunities for American trade and investment.

U.S. assistance to India, and elsewhere, serves our national interests and is provided because it promotes our policy priorities, not as a reward for voting with us.

We should not cut assistance to countries based solely on their voting practices in the United Nations General Assembly. We should consider more than just a voting record. For example, we agree on a host of other UN activities. India has sent significant troop contingents to various peace-keeping missions around the world, serving as a partner to further our mutual interests.

But even if you consider their voting record, in votes identified by the State Department as "important," India voted with the U.S. 75% of the time. This amendment will do nothing but damage our relations with a valuable ally by identifying India as an opponent of U.S. policies, when, in fact, we have a great deal in common.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this amendment.

TEACHER EMPOWERMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1995) to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to empower teachers, improve student achievement through high-quality professional development for teachers, reauthorize the Reading Excellence Act, and for other purposes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, the problems with H.R. 1995 are abundant in nature, however, one of its greatest flaws deals with the lack of language about the school counselors of this country. H.R. 1995 eliminates over one million personnel from eligibility for professional development under Title II of ESEA. Without the assistance of other school personnel, undue burdens and demands will be placed on teachers. TEA will actually increase, not decrease, the workload and responsibilities of teachers. H.R. 1995 decreases local flexibility to train and hire needed school personnel—America's schools need school counselors, the recent school shootings remind us that students have needs that must be served by qualified counseling professionals. H.R. 1995 eliminates pupil services from eligibility for professional development by completely rewriting title II of ESEA. H.R. 1995 limits students with disabilities access to education—by eliminating professional development for pupil services, school staff will be unprepared to meet the special needs of students with disabilities. These are just a few of the shortcomings with H.R. 1995, if we are in this for the children, how can we simply sit back passively and allow such grossly inadequate legislation which blatantly ignores those who fight so hard for the welfare of our children—school counselors.

IRAN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION
PREVENTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1477, the Iran Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1999, of which I am an original co-sponsor. This provision, which passed the House of Representatives in the 105th Congress by an overwhelming margin, would ensure that we hold the International Atomic Energy Agency accountable for its programs in Iran, and would reinforce our commitment to peace and stability in the Persian Gulf.

Despite its plentiful oil and gas resources, Iran has sought for years to complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant on its Persian Gulf coast. Iran is a notorious sponsor of international terrorism, and as such its plans to utilize nuclear energy should not go unchecked by the United States and our allies. I have little faith that a nation which thinks nothing of

murdering innocent civilians and of rounding up innocent Jews and throwing them into jail on trumped-up charges possesses the commitment to safety that would prevent such a reactor from being a threat to the entire Gulf region, if not the world.

The November 1998 pact between Iran and Russia to expedite the construction at Bushehr is illustrative of the urgency of this threat. As a nation, we need to pay close attention to the progression of this project, and we should ensure that we do not contribute to Iran's acquisition of technology or expertise during the course of this project which could contribute to its procurement of nuclear weapons know-how.

As Iran continues to build its military arsenal—testing engines for ballistic missiles capable of carrying warheads to Israel and other nations in the region, we should make sure that our money—both directly and indirectly—does not help Iran's conquest of nuclear technology. This measure, which would withhold assistance to the IAEA pending certain State Department certifications, is a necessary step toward that goal. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

BRENT BAUKNECHT ACHIEVES
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brent Bauknecht for his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout.

Eagle Scout is the highest honor that a Boy Scout can earn. This high honor requires years of dedication and hard work both to himself and most importantly, the community.

Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges including First Aid; Camping; Citizenship of the Community; Citizenship of the Nation; Citizenship of the World; Family Life; and Personal Management. In addition, each Eagle Scout must plan, finance, and execute a service project that benefits the community. Furthermore, each Eagle Scout must hold a variety of leadership positions in which he gains important life skills that will always remain with him.

Brent has accomplished this and more. He has proven himself to be an exceptional young man by living by the Scout Law; Scout Oath; Scout Motto; and Scout Promise. Only two percent of all boys entering scouting achieve the Eagle Badge, and this accomplishment is a true testament to Brent's abilities, dedication, and commitment.

I ask you to please join me in congratulating Brent for his achievement and outstanding work.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN AND SHARON
TRAVIS**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dean and Sharon Travis of Gratiot

County, Michigan, who will be honored at a special ceremony in Midland on July 24 when they will be presented with a Centennial Farm marker by Consumers Energy.

At this celebration, the Travis family and other farm families will have the opportunity to share their stories. The Travis family will relay with appropriate pride how their farm, located in Pine River Township, was purchased by their great-great-grandfather in 1857 and has remained in their family ever since.

The festivities are being held in conjunction with a special Smithsonian Institution exhibit, "Barn Again: Celebrating an American Icon." This exhibit celebrates America's rich agricultural heritage, telling the story of farmers and their varying needs throughout our history.

The barn represents growth and prosperity of Americans, and it is important to recognize the agricultural community's contribution to our nation. This year the exhibit tours Michigan for the first time; residents of Alabama, Illinois, Oregon, Utah, Ohio, Missouri, West Virginia and Georgia have already been privileged to see it.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the Travis family today. Their success has been a source of pride to Gratiot County, and their barn and Centennial Farm designation symbolize the hard work and determination that is characteristic of mid-Michigan's farm families.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to honor them today in the U.S. House of Representatives and I wish them many more generations of bounty.

ELECTRIC BICYCLE LEGISLATION

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a bipartisan, non-controversial, and much-needed piece of legislation. This bill will clarify for purposes of Federal law and regulations that electric bicycles are consumer products and not motor vehicles. This clarification is necessary, as the interpretation of existing law is that electric bicycles are motor vehicles and must conform to all motor vehicle safety standards.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to clarify what an electric bicycle is. An electric bicycle is defined as a bike with all the same features of a conventional bike save one. It carries a small electric motor system that, when engaged by the flip of a switch, augments the power of the rider. This motor empowers the rider to easily pedal speeds up to, but not over, 20 mph.

Because of this feature, electric bicycles are very popular with recreational riders, seniors, commuters, fitness riders, and police and other law enforcement agencies, just to name a few. These bicycles have the potential to mitigate traffic congestion and parking problems, enhance law enforcement agencies' ability to perform certain designated duties; reduce air and noise pollution; promote cost-effective alternative-fuel vehicles; and enhance mobility for those who are physically unable either to drive or access essential services on pedal-only bicycles. In fact, in Southern California, electric bicycles have already begun to demonstrate their significant contribution to improving the quality of life for all.

It is clear that, as defined under my legislation, an electric bicycle is not a moped or a motorcycle, and it is certainly not a motor vehicle. To require it, therefore, to meet all the federal standards of a motor vehicle, which require the implementation of brake lights, turn signals, a speedometer, an odometer, wide tires, and other mandates, is contrary to the notion of what you and I hold as a bike.

The bill I'm introducing today would clarify this situation once and for all. It simply provides that electric bicycles are consumer products and are subject to consumer product rules and regulations. This will not eliminate all safety standards for electric bicycles. My legislation will still provide for these products to be subject to strict safety standards.

As I stated, this is a common sense, non-controversial bill. Electric bicycles should be held to the same federal safety standards as bicycles, not motor vehicles. I encourage you to join in co-sponsoring this bill and in supporting passage.

HOLDING MANAGED CARE ACCOUNTABLE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring an editorial from today's Chicago Tribune to the attention of my colleagues. The editorial is titled "Holding Managed Care Accountable." I hope that my colleagues take the time to read this informative and interesting commentary.

[From the Chicago Tribune, July 22, 1999]

HOLDING MANAGED CARE ACCOUNTABLE
(By Philip H. Corboy)

CHICAGO—John McCarron suggests that the best Congress can do for America's health-care system is to do nothing ("Medical malpractice? When Congress plays doctor, pray for gridlock," Commentary, July 12). Perhaps some agree with him that "there's not much wrong with managed care." They may not have experienced a major medical crisis and the chance to see their HMO in action.

Supporters of the Patients' Bill of Rights point to scores of incidents around the country. Workers pay for medical coverage for themselves and their families, then find that needed care is delayed or denied—even over the objections of their own doctors. Often the result is that the patient suffers more serious harm, or even death.

Mr. McCarron's argument that this is the employer's fault for choosing the HMO is misguided. All managed-care plans have strong financial incentives to minimize care and maximize profits, which amounted to some \$10.5 billion for the industry last year. There is no disincentive to keep administrators from interfering with patient care by denying needed services, understaffing or imposing cumbersome authorization requirements. Unlike every other private business or profession, employee managed-care plans cannot be sued and held accountable for the harm they cause.

This unusual immunity is not something Congress intended, or even considered. In 1974 the legislature passed the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), a complicated statute designed to promote and to protect employee pension funds. To avoid conflicting regulations, Congress pre-empted

state law. As a result if a plan denies or delays testing for a premature baby at high risk for retinopathy and the child becomes permanently blind, the maximum amount of compensation that the parents can recover is the cost of the test itself. To avoid this harsh result, Congress should fix the problem it created.

The industry's primary strategy in its fight to keep its special immunity has been to frighten Americans with dire predictions of a flood of lawsuits and skyrocketing premiums. Fortunately Americans can see for themselves what happens when managed care is made accountable.

For example, ERISA does not apply to government workers. A study by the Kaiser Family Foundation of approximately 1 million government workers in California from 1991 to 1997 found that only 20 had filed lawsuits. The study estimated that permitting liability actions added only between 3 and 13 cents to each policyholder's monthly premium.

In 1997 Texas enacted a statute that created an external review for managed-care decisions and allowed patients to sue their HMOs. The number of lawsuits that have flooded Texas courts: three. The Texas Department of Insurance, the designated external review board, predicted that there would be 4,400 complaints in the first year. Only 531 were registered, 46 percent of which were resolved in favor of the patients. Texans' liability premiums are almost exactly what they were in 1995.

Missouri also chose in 1997 to allow liability suits. So far there have been none. The experience in Texas and Missouri suggests that the deterrent effect of legal accountability has encouraged managed-care insurers to provide better patient care.

Doctors, unions and groups that represent patients, consumers, veterans and seniors all support the Patients' Bill of Rights. They want more accountability for managed-care plans. The industry claims that it needs immunity to save money, which keeps premiums low. Yet in many cases delay necessitates a much more expensive and risky course of treatment.

Congress should do something. Close the loopholes that encourages managed-care bureaucrats and administrators to interfere with doctors caring for patients.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN HONOR OF STRONGSVILLE SAVINGS BANK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Strongsville Savings Bank for their 38 years of service to Northeastern Ohio.

Strongsville Savings Bank was established by a group of local community businesses in May of 1960. In April 1961 it initiated its service to the Strongsville community, as an Ohio chartered, federally insured savings association. Since then, Strongsville Savings Bank has grown and expanded to 16 offices in Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Medina counties.

Nevertheless, the Bank has remained community-oriented, with an emphasis on customer service. Its services include consumer and commercial checking accounts savings accounts, certificates of deposit, residential and commercial real estate loans, home equity line of credit, use of proprietary ATMs, elec-

tronic fund transfer services, access to a network of ATM and many other services. The Strongsville Savings Bank is very active in its support of developers and builders of residential housing in their market area by providing a wide array of loans and retail financial services.

Recently, in 1996, Emerald Financial Corporation became the Bank's parent company and unitary thrift holding company. Mike Kalinich, one of the Bank's original shareholders, is chairman of both Emerald Financial Corp. and Strongsville Savings Bank. Of the original 128 shareholders, 38 years ago, 21 continue to be owners of Emerald Financial Corp. stock, and many others are the children and grandchildren of the original shareholders.

Historically, Strongsville has had such success, with strong community involvement and investment in local interests. I would like to congratulate Strongsville Savings Bank for their 38 years of success and service, as well as wish them continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent and unable to vote due to my recovery from heart surgery, July 19, 1999—July 22, 1999.

On July 16, 1999:

I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1033 (Roll Call number 308).

I would have voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 121 (Roll Call number 309).

I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1477 (Roll Call number 310).

On July 20, 1999:

I would have voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 158 (Roll Call number 311).

I would have voted in favor of the Campbell amendment to the Smith amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 312).

I would have voted against the Sanford Amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 313).

I would have voted against the Paul Amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 314).

I would have voted against H. Res. 253 (Roll Call vote 315).

I would have voted in favor of the Goodling amendment to H.R. 1995 (Roll Call number 316).

I would have voted in favor of the Mink amendment to H.R. 1995 (Roll Call number 317).

I would have voted in favor of the Crowley amendment to H.R. 1995 (Roll Call 318).

I would have voted in favor of the Martinez amendment to H.R. 1995 (Roll Call 319).

I would have voted against H.R. 1995 (Roll Call number 320).

On July 21, 1999.

I would have voted against the Gilman amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 321).

I would have voted against the Sanders amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 322).

I would have voted in favor of the Gibbons amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 323).

I would have voted against the Goodling amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 324).

I would have voted against the Stearns amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 325).

I would have voted in favor of the Waters amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 326).

I would have voted in favor of the Bilbray amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 327).

I would have voted in favor of the Doggett amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 328).

I would have voted in favor of the Engel amendment to H.R. 2415 (Roll Call number 329).

On July 22, 1999:

I would have voted against H. Res. 256 (Roll Call number 330).

I would have voted in favor of the Rangel amendment to H.R. 2488 (Roll Call vote 331).

I would have voted in favor of the motion to recommit H.R. 2488 (Roll Call vote 332).

I would have voted against H.R. 2488 (Roll Call number 333).

I would have voted against H.R. 2561 (Roll Call number 334).

CONGRATULATION TO DR. LAWRENCE A. JOHNSON UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of a longtime public servant, Dr. Lawrence A. Johnson, a leading researcher and international authority in the field of artificial insemination and semen physiology and preservation in swine.

Dr. Johnson, was born and raised on a livestock farm in Luck, Wisconsin, in the heart of western Wisconsin's dairy country in my district. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls in 1961, he received his Master's from the University of Minnesota in St. Paul in 1963, and was awarded his doctorate by the University of Maryland in 1968.

Thirty-five years ago, in 1964, Dr. Johnson began his career with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, first as a chemist with the Swine Research Branch, and later as Research Physiologist with the Reproduction Laboratory. He became Research Leader of the Germplasm and Gamete Physiology Laboratory when it was created in 1991. He also served for two years as Visiting Scientist at the Research Institute for Animal production in the Netherlands.

With Dr. V.G. Pursel, Dr. Johnson developed the Beltsville Freezing and Thawing Method for preserving swine sperm. This method has been commercially used for cryopreservation of boar semen since 1975 and it has been used for the exportation of the highest quality genetics to upgrade swine production in more than 40 countries throughout the world. Subsequently, Dr. Johnson initiated collaborative studies with Dutch which led to the Beltsville TS Semen Diluent becoming the

primary swine semen diluent throughout the world, currently used in 12 to 15 million inseminations worldwide each year. More recently, his research led to the development of the only effective method to control the sex ratio of mammalian offspring, considered a major advance in reproductive biology, which has brought him world recognition as an authority on gender preselection. In 1993, Dr. Johnson and his colleagues successfully adapted the sexing technology to be used for disease prevention in humans.

Dr. Johnson has authored or co-authored more than 265 scientific papers, book chapters and abstracts, and he has presented 75 papers at various international symposia and meetings. His numerous awards have included the Alexander von Humboldt Award in 1994 for the "most significant accomplishment in American Agriculture in the previous five years", and, in the same year, he was recognized as the Distinguished ARS Scientist for the Year. Dr. Johnson's work has also been recognized in countries throughout the world from the Netherlands to Japan.

Upon his retirement from government service, Dr. Johnson will be returning to his home state of Wisconsin. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank him for his years of government service, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS LLOYD

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man whose outstanding dedication to our children, the future of our nation, does us all proud. Dr. Thomas Lloyd, General Superintendent of Schools in the Highland Park School District, passed away on June 28, 1999, at the age of 61. The community will miss him dearly.

Dr. Lloyd, who had served since 1996 as the District's 16th superintendent, was born in Miami and graduated from George Washington Carver High School there in 1956. After attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Dr. Lloyd enrolled at Wayne State University, where he earned a B.A. in Psychology in 1963. In addition, he minored in Sociology and English. He continued on at Wayne State, where he earned a M.A. in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling, with a minor in Education. Subsequently, Dr. Lloyd earned his Ph.D. in Administration and Supervision at the University of Michigan.

From 1962–63, Dr. Lloyd served as research technician at Henry Ford Hospital and Lafayette Clinic in Detroit. He also served as a clinical psychologist at W.J. Maxey Training School in Whitmore Lake (1963–65), an assistant at Wayne State's Traffic Research Center, and as School Psychological Diagnostician for the Southern Wayne County Economic Group, Inc. (1966–68). Additionally, Dr. Lloyd served as dropout counselor and guidance department supervisor in the Detroit Public Schools; and as team leader, special instructor and acting supervisor of trainee affairs at the DPS Skills Training Center from 1965–66.

In his 32 years of service to the Highland Park School District, Dr. Lloyd held a variety

of posts. A state-certified Psychological Examiner, he also served as School Diagnostician (1967–68), counselor at Highland Park Community College (1968–1971), Assistant Dean at HPCC (1971), and School District Special Education Programs Supervisor (1987). Dr. Lloyd also had an earlier stint as Superintendent of Schools (1978–87) and two periods as President of Highland Park Community College (1971–78 and 1993–96).

Dr. Lloyd was renowned and respected for his leadership ability in the field of education, always placing a strong emphasis on planning, efficiency and fiscal responsibility. His most recent accomplishment was a richly detailed blueprint for improved educational quality and student achievement, the 1997–2000 District-wide School Improvement Plan. Dr. Lloyd realized early on the impact that new technology would have on learning, becoming a strong advocate for high-tech teaching, learning and information services. He led the District into a new age of technology, accomplishing a swift transition into an exciting era.

Dr. Lloyd was also an impassioned defender of Highland Park Community College. He voraciously fought to keep the only convenient metro-area community college open, to serve thousands of "education-seeking students" who could not easily attend other institutions of higher learning. He fought to ensure that education was available to all, not just a privileged few.

Other initiatives fostered under Dr. Lloyd's stewardship were the creation of a new public information program, and in concert with the Mother's Club of Highland Park, reactivation of the Harvey C. Jackson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. Combined with local fundraising and outside providers, the Scholarship Fund has issued \$173,400 in college scholarships to 127 Highland Park students in 18 years. Dr. Lloyd successfully grasped the importance of advanced education in the modern world and ensured that his gifted students were in no way restrained from reaching their full potential.

In addition, Dr. Lloyd, at various points in his career, served as chairman of national and local planning committees. He planned the first annual National Association of Black School Educators Summer Leadership Academy (Ann Arbor, 1983). He also chaired the Southeastern Michigan League of Community Colleges (1977–78), and served on the Executive Board of the Michigan Community College Association. Also, Dr. Lloyd was also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, the Phi Delta Kappa educational honorary society, and various state and national professional organizations in the fields of psychology and education.

Dr. Lloyd has served as a member of executive boards of the Highland Park Boys' Club, Rotary Club, Caucus Club, Metropolitan Detroit Bureau of School Studies, and Detroit Black United Fund. In addition, he was a member of the Highland Park Lions' Club, Highland Park City Planning Commission, and the advisory board of the Reggie McKenzie Foundation, and has served as Trustee of Mayflower Congregational Church in Detroit.

In 1997, Dr. Lloyd received the honored Golden Apple Award, from the Trailblazer's Division (Scouting for the Handicapped) of the Detroit Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. Lloyd is survived by his wife Karen, son Thomas (Melissa), daughters Lisa (Mark) and

Charlene, stepdaughter Dawnielle, brothers Samuel and James, grandsons Kennie Hobbs, Jr., and Mark Jones, Jr., and granddaughters Danielle Mike; Jessica, Amber and Mallory Lloyd.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THREE HEROES; JOHN PITTMAN, LYNN ETHERIDGE, AND CHARLES ATTEBERRY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor three Texans, Mr. John Pittman, Ms. Lynn Etheridge, and Mr. Charles Atteberry who were tragically killed in a helicopter crash while en route to pick up a patient as part of the world renowned Hermann Life Flight program. Their helicopter crashed in eastern Fort Bend County this past Saturday, July 17, 1999. It was the first fatal accident for Hermann Life Flight program since its inception in 1976.

Mr. John Pittman, 58, was an accomplished pilot who worked on Hermann Life Flight for much of his career. Ms. Lynn Etheridge, 35, was flight nurse who provided quality emergency care services to injured persons. Mr. Charles "Mac" Atteberry, 32, was a dedicated paramedic who provided cutting-edge medical services to trauma care victims. All three were veteran Memorial Hermann Hospital System employees. Mr. Pittman had flown for more than 30 years, including 10 years as Life Flight pilot.

Hermann Life Flight is one of the most advanced emergency care helicopters in existence. Hermann Life Flight has logged more than one million air miles and flown more than 60,000 missions. This service is available 24 hours a day through the dedicated work of its 14 pilots, 13 flight nurses, 12 paramedics, 20 communications specialist and 6 mechanics. The Hermann Life Flight program includes three helicopters that provide emergency care services within 150 mile radius throughout Texas and western Louisiana. The cost of providing this service is more than \$3 million annually which is solely funded through community and fundraising efforts. The Hermann Life Flight program provides advanced emergency life support equipment, including cardiac monitors and defibrillators, temporary pacemakers, oxygen and materials for immobilization and isolettes for newborns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring their service to the community and in expressing my condolences to the families of Mr. Pittman, Ms. Etheridge, and Mr. Atteberry.

The Greek Poet Homer once wrote that "life and death are balanced on the edge of a razor." Their mission, indeed their job, to provide medical care to those with the greatest need was simple, but always with risk. They saved lives while balancing their own on the edge of a razor. Yet, they did this day in and day out. I know that John, Lynn and "Mac" were deeply committed to the services they provided to the greater Houston community. All Texans can be proud of the services they provided and the sacrifices they made. They will be missed.

A private memorial service for the emergency medical service community will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at First United Methodist Church—Westchase Campus. A public memorial will be held at Rice Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

RECOGNIZING THE ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH'S FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO ITS PRIEST AND PARISHIONERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the fortieth anniversary of the first mass of the Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, first formed by the Archbishop Edward H. Hoban on March 6, 1959.

The parish has come a long way from the first mass held in the Parmadale Orphanage on July 12, 1959 by the parish's founding pastor, Fr. Jeremy Fischer. It quickly became an integral part of the community and within a few months it had more than a thousand families registered and a very successful campaign to begin construction on its own building. On January 29, 1961 the new building, including a gym and school, was dedicated and served as the parish's home for twenty years until the continuously growing parish of over 3400 families required a new home.

Under the guidance of the first principal, Mr. Frank Kuhar, the parish has dedicated itself to the education of our youth and to providing them a solid foundation from which they can progress to become God-fearing leaders of the community and a source of guidance and inspiration to the next generation.

On Sunday, July 11, 1999, at noon, Most Reverend A. Edward Pevec, Archbishop of Cleveland, will preside over mass at the parish which his predecessor had founded almost exactly forty years earlier. It will be followed by a reception in the school hall and a banquet and dance later in the evening.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing the St. Anthony of Padua Parish's forty years of service and the dedication of its priests and parishioners to fostering the spiritual health and community life of its congregation.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF MR. ROBERT M. TOBIAS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come to floor today to recognize the tremendous career of Bob Tobias, longtime friend and advocate to federal employees everywhere.

In August, Bob will not be seeking reelection for a fifth term as President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), an organization which represents more than 155,000 employees in 20 federal agencies and departments. During his 31 years with the NTEU, including 16 as President, he has turned it into one of the most effective voices federal employees have ever had.

Bob and I have worked together since I was first elected to Congress in 1990. Bob was extremely helpful in advising me on the complex legislation to promote fair and equitable compensation and benefits for our civil servants.

Bob earned his law degree from the George Washington University School of Law, based right here in DC. He then went on to use litigation as a tool to advance the interests of federal employees across America. Bob has led several landmark legal victories, including a successful half-billion dollar back pay suit against President Nixon, a federal court victory that gave federal workers the right to engage in informational picketing, and a Supreme Court win that overturned the ban on speaking and writing honoraria.

In fact, Bob has been involved in every major piece of legislation impacting federal employees during the last 20 years. These include the development of FERS, protecting the FEHBP, the restructuring of the IRS, and enacting the Federal Employee Pay Comparability Act. He has also been tireless in promoting the idea that partnership can make the workplace better for federal employees, providing a more efficient service to the American taxpayer. Bob also led the fight to restore political freedom to federal employees in pushing for reform of the Hatch Act.

Bob is now focusing on different priorities; a second career as a teacher and writer on public policy issues beckons, where he will be able to educate a new generation.

I have enjoyed working with you Bob, and look forward to continuing to work with you on issues that are so important to working families. I wish you the best of luck.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.**HD***Supp for H.R. 2415 and for Radio Free Asia

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the authorizing committee in their commitment to fully authorize Radio Free Asia at \$30,000,000 and to lift the sunset provision of Radio Free Asia.

I have had a longstanding interest in U.S. international broadcasting and I am proud and delighted that Radio Free Asia is running so strongly and delivering accurate and timely news to those who would not otherwise receive it. In its fourth year of existence, RFA has been able to expand its service to provide information in nine languages to listeners in Asia who do not have access to full and free news media reaching countless people living in China, Tibet, Burma, Vietnam, North Korea, Laos and Cambodia.

I want to congratulate the Chairman and the committee on lifting the sunset on Radio Free Asia and call on the other body do to the

same. RFA is the only U.S. international broadcaster to have a sunset provision. It is time to bring RFA in line with the rest of the international broadcasters.

As we continue to fight communism, dictatorships and human rights abusers in Asia, it is important democracy, freedom and the truth have a voice. RFA provides that voice.

This year the U.S. suffered first hand from the lack of free press in China in the wake of the Embassy bombing in Belgrade. RFA was one of the few news broadcasts to reach the Chinese people that provided the truth following the incident. And according to RFA call-in shows following the bombing, over half of the callers were critical of the way the Chinese government handled the situation. RFA also broadcasted a special series this summer commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Crackdown and providing a voice for family members to remember their loved ones.

China is not the only country where Radio Free Asia is reaching out to people. In Burma, Radio Free Asia regularly interviews Aung San Suu Kyi, keeping the hope of her party alive. A series was also conducted this year on AIDS in the country which included medical information about the disease. In Korean, stories ran on North Koreans defecting to China due to its famine and on the South Korean/North Korean engagement policy.

In several of these repressive countries with closed or weak media institutions, the Chinese government—through the Xinhua News Agency and other means—has an impact on the way events are reported within the country. RFA provides an important counterweight to this creeping influence.

As these countries struggle with democracy, human rights and freedom, the importance of independent media sources cannot be underestimated. Governments are less likely to commit abuses if Radio Free Asia is shining light on their injustices while promoting democracy and U.S. interests. I am proud Radio Free Asia is available to provide this service. I look forward to its continued and expanded service to create an even greater audience to bring democracy and freedom to Asia.

MINIMUM WAGE IN VERMONT; NATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM; PEER COUNSELING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD statements by high school students from my home State of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert these statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

MINIMUM WAGE IN VERMONT

(On behalf of Brandi Russin, Tonya Boutin and Nicole King)

Brandi Russin: We are here to talk about the minimum wage in Vermont. We feel that it is a little bit low for the price. The living expenses in Vermont are very high compared to the minimum wage.

Tonya Boutin: I feel that with the life that we are living now, that the expenses are very high, and the minimum wage is not enough. We have got car payments to pay, we have gas, we have other things that we need to spend our money on, and with the minimum wage, it is not enough. If you think about all the stuff—

Brandi Russin: I don't know if you are interested. We brought some forms along for you to look at. Right here, I have pay stubs from a job when I was earning regular minimum wage, and this is the net amount. We just want to note the small amounts on these checks. And we have all noticed, at the jobs when we've been getting paid minimum wage, you get like a \$60 to an \$80 check per week, and you are like, Oh, you know, I can just spend this here, spend this here, and you tend not to save as much money. And as we grow up a little, we know we have a lot to save for. And this is also another job where it is more than minimum wage, and, on the bottom, you can see the amounts are much larger. And with amounts like this, you think, Wow, you know, maybe I should be setting some of this aside for something.

We would like you just to see that. And we also made some forms up on some expenses that teenagers do have in their lifetime. And \$5.25 is not adequate, we feel, along with most other teenagers.

We also made up a little tiny fact sheet saying that, if you want to see a movie on minimum wage, the movie price is \$7.50 to get into a movie. So if you want to go to see a movie, you have to work for an hour and a half at your job to see one movie. And a lot of teenagers like to wear Levi jeans, and those cost—we did an estimate of \$45. If you want to go buy a pair of jeans for yourself, you have to work nine hours for a pair of jeans.

Congressman Sanders: Anyone else that wanted to add anything?

Nicole King: When I started working, I started my first job last June, once I got out of school. I was making \$5.50 at that job, but I didn't feel I was making enough to make care payments, car insurance, and my other living expenses, so I started working a second job. And between the two of those, I was working between 50 and 65 hours a week. And I could only do that for about a month and a half, and I had to quit my first job because I was getting more hours at my second job.

Congressman Sanders: Tonya, did you have anything to add to that?

Tonya Boutin: I was working at a job that was paying minimum wage, and I found that, the more hours I got was better, but my paychecks weren't satisfying. You know, I just—I worked hard to get the money that I earned, and the paycheck that I was getting just didn't satisfy me. And to try to save up money is very hard, because you only get a certain amount, and, you know, you pay your bills and what you need to do, and you only like 20 bucks at the end, and it is not enough.

Brandi Russin: As both of these, I was working two jobs also. I was working over 70 hours a week, and finally I said to myself, I can't keep doing this. And when you become a senior in high school, you realize all the college expenses coming up, and you say, Wow, where am I going to get the money from? So you start doing what we did, and panic, and you start working 50 to 70 hours a week, and you say, Where am I going to get all the money from? And you have to say no to yourself, you have to say, I need to stop and realize what I am doing to myself, and I am not getting enough sleep, and I am just going to keep working, keep working for this money.

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

(On behalf of Zarina Williams and Melanie Campo)

ZARINA WILLIAMS: The United States should have a national health care system. Nationally, Americans spent \$1.2 trillion on health care in 1998, and the amount is increasing each year. Thirty-seven million out of 270 million people in America do not receive adequate health care. Many Americans cannot afford private medical insurance, but do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare. Some people who have private insurance have to do without treatment because they cannot afford the deductible.

There are other countries that have national health care. France has a national health care system, where the government reimburses 85 percent of medical costs, and you have your choice of doctors and dentists. Germany also has a national health care system, where the government pays for unemployed welfare recipients and employed people up to a certain income. People who earn high income take out private insurance, because the government does not pay for the health care. Most hospitals in Germany are run by states and municipalities, not privately owned.

Melanie Campo: In the United States, government should provide national health care. Financial means should not determine the quality of the medical services a citizen receives. If we had a national health care system, people would want to become doctors to help people, not for the money. Almost every industrialized country provides partial health care coverage for its citizens. Why shouldn't America?

A plan proposed in Massachusetts would eliminate four-fifths of the out-of-pocket health costs. Funds for this plan could come from savings in administrative costs of the system, money from the federal government, and money employers and employees now contribute to health insurance premiums. Additional money would be generated through new taxes of 1.5 percent on income and 1 percent on payroll. With this plan, everyone would receive the same coverage. This plan would negotiate drug prices and regulate medical costs.

PEER COUNSELING

(On behalf of Lee Knight, Anna Tornello and Gigi Craig)

Anna Tornello: We have changed our topic to peer counseling at Colchester High School.

In the past several months, there have been bomb threats, weapon threats, and many unfortunate deaths. When we were on vacation, the Littleton, Colorado, incident happened, and when we came back to school, we were all really scared.

Lee Knight: And that is why we want to start a peer counseling group. It's because we don't want the same tragedy that happened at Columbine High School to happen here. One of the reasons why students turn to violence was because of the way that the society looked at them. Kids and students should not be judged by the way they dress. It doesn't matter what they look like; it is who they are on the inside. It is just like philosopher John Locke said: People are not born good or evil, but they are shaped by their surroundings. In which, in our case, our surroundings are the society that we live in. And we want to stop criticism that happens in schools all around the nation.

Anna Tornello: As we know, not one student can save a whole school from the same kind of tragedy that happened at Columbine High School. And students have guidance counselors at the school, but most students

are afraid to talk to their guidance counselors, and one reason is because they are afraid that they might tell their parents or they might tell other people. That's why we feel that peers of your own age, you should be able to talk to them. And that's what we think.

Gigi Craig: What we need is full-time guidance counselors to respond quickly to students' needs, if they are feeling that they are going to hurt themselves or hurt somebody else. We can't wait a week, because we don't know what will happen by then.

Anna Tornello: We have talked to Phillip Brown, who is a licensed psychiatrist in Vermont, and he said that the peer counseling would be a really good idea, because it will help the kids be able to talk to other people better, and if there is a problem like where somebody is going to hurt themselves or somebody else, then you need to go seek professional help. But we can help people with just little problems, and that will help the students be able to talk and get out their feelings.

The group at Colchester High School, we hope, will someday help the peer counseling,

and maybe someday it will be able to spread through Vermont, and maybe the nation. And we feel that students should be able to feel safer at school, and that every student needs to have somebody that cares, and somebody to talk to when they need help. And we feel that all these goals can be accomplished with the help of the community, the government, adults, and other students. We don't want to get this swept underneath the rug. We want to make a difference in the community, and, most of all, we want to help kids that are normal on the outside but are crying on the inside.